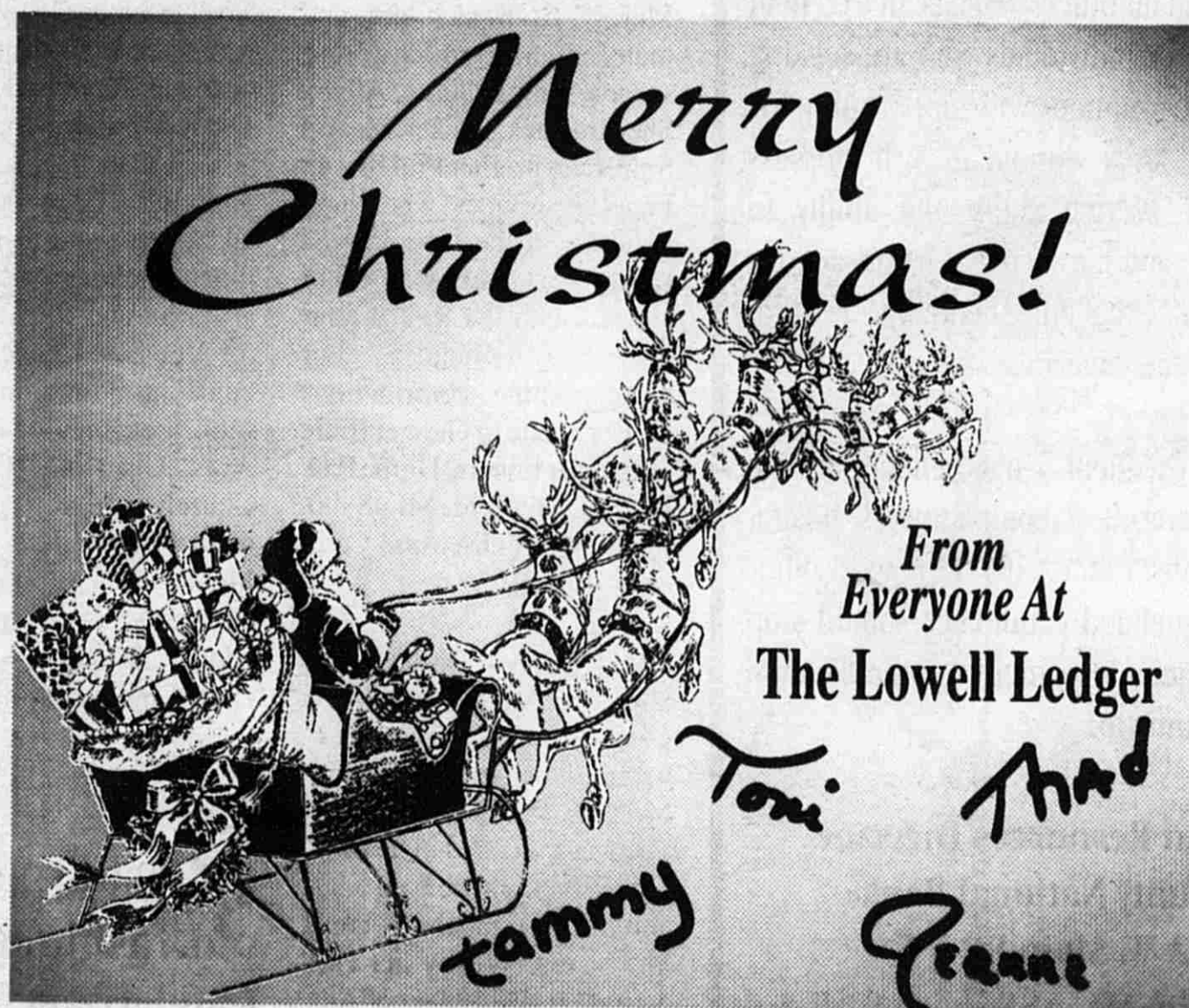


The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 12

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, December 19, 2001



Questions still linger, but YMCA given approval for proposed building site

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

Will Welsh's wish, some might say, was to get the OK from city council about the YMCA's plans to build a facility at the city's Stony Lakeside Park.

The council, while still having some questions over the details of the plans, did give him the gift of a consensus approval for the project which would allow city staff to move forward and decide what type of agreements will need to be in place for the YMCA building to be a reality.

"We are in the process of building a full facility in the city of Lowell to service the community's recreational needs," Welsh said. The YMCA had a Winfield Study done to see if the community could and would support such a facility with the results coming back positive.

Since then, the YMCA has implemented some programs, including a teen and wellness center, with leaders working on the development of the facility.

With footprint drawings in hand, Welsh approached the council Monday night about the location of the proposed facility at Stony Lakeside Park, the one park the city has not fully developed.

"Because the park is not fully developed, the Parks and Recreation Commission felt it was the best area for the proposed YMCA building," said Parks and Recreation chair, Perry Beachum. Another possible location included Creekside Park. At this time, Beachum said the commission only approved the footprint of the building because of concerns about expansion of the facility.

Councilmember, Don Green, who sits on the Parks and Recreation Commission, said the group would be including Stony Lakeside Park in its overall master plan work next year. Beachum said the commission also made promises for other items there including a skating area.

Currently, the park has a beach area, playground, and some sports fields, all of which would go undisturbed by the new facility, Welsh said. Also the current parking lot of 80 spaces would remain intact with the YMCA facility adding another 80 spaces, which is required, according to the city ordinance. The facility would be around 42,000 square feet.

"We thought it would work well since the high time of the YMCA is the low time of the beach area, usually winter, and the high time of the beach area is typically the low time of the YMCA," Welsh said.

While thrilled about the YMCA having a facility in the area, the council recognized there were several issues involved including the fact that the land in question was purchased with public money. Beachum also raised the concern of parking and wasn't sure that what the YMCA proposed would be enough.

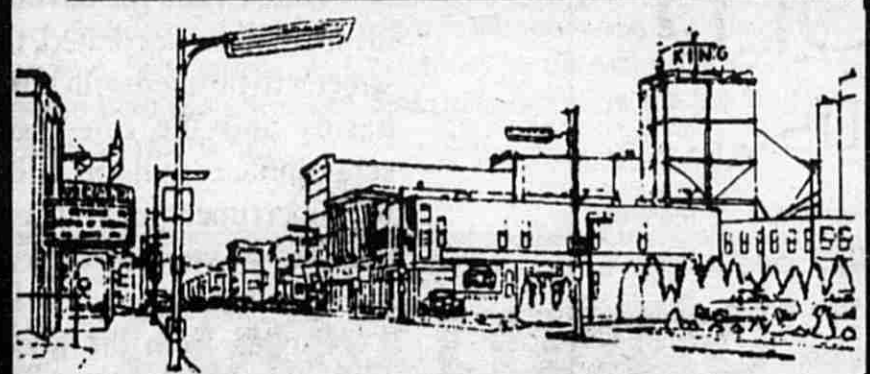
"We are looking to give away 42,000 square feet of the citizen's property. Even though we will gain something from it, we have to do it wisely," Green said.

However, the council felt it could at least give a consensus approval to the project being at Stony Lakeside Park so the details of agreement and the issue of expansion could be addressed through the process.

Welsh said he thought the site would at least service the area for about eight to 10 years before it would need to be expanded.

Currently, the group's goal is to construct the building in 2004, but if things move faster, including fundraising efforts, Welsh said the group might be able to start the building a few months before that.

Along Main Street



Lowell mayor and councilmembers in for a raise

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

The last time the Lowell City Council got a raise was when Don Green was joining the council.

Ten years later, as Green is departing, the Local Officers Compensation Commission made the recommendation at the Monday night council meeting that the mayor compensation be increased from \$30 to \$40 per meeting with a maximum of \$1,000 a year. The commission also recommended that the councilmembers' compensation be raised from \$25 to \$35 per meeting, with a maximum of \$875 per year.

The group met earlier this month and after some lengthy discussion with comparisons from other communities opted to stay with its "per meeting" compensation system since that works the best, according to the group's minutes. It was then decided to raise the mayor's and councilmembers' pay by \$10 per meeting.

According to the city charter, the compensation is automatic, unless the council, by a two-thirds vote, votes not to accept it.

Councilmember, Dan Brubaker said because only three members were in attendance, the city should represent the issue at the council's next meeting.

"We don't even have enough people to vote against it if we wanted to," Brubaker said. The council would need at least four votes against it to vote the recommendation down.

City manager, David Pasquale said the last pay increase for the council and the mayor was made in 1991.

"The Local Officers Compensation Commission is supposed to meet every two years and it has been a number of years since it has," Pasquale said. "It will start meeting again every two years."

The Local Officers Compensation Commission is scheduled to meet again Dec. 2, 2004, to review the compensation of the councilmembers and mayor.

CARRIAGE RIDES CANCELLED

Free horse and carriage rides along Historic Main Street have been cancelled for this year. We thank you for your support and wish you a blessed holiday season.

SANTA VISITS WITH PETS

Santa will be at the Animal Hospital and Pet Complex on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Pictures are available.

BENEFIT AT LARKIN'S OTHER PLACE

Three Lowell-area families lost their home to fire on Nov. 28. There will be a benefit on Friday, Dec. 21 from 7-11 p.m. at Larkin's Other Place with plenty of food and various raffles. Donations will also be accepted. Please show your community support and attend.

CHAMBER HOLIDAY

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will be closing for the holidays beginning Dec. 22 - Jan. 1, 2002. The office will reopen Jan. 2. Happy New Year and thank you for supporting Lowell businesses, organizations and government entities.

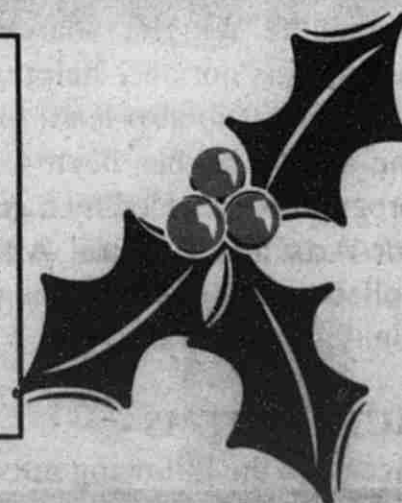
DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL

Lowell High School is in need of many prom-style dresses for this year's all-school musical Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. If you would be willing to donate to the production, they may be brought into the high school office daily from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.; all sizes and colors are needed but especially dresses with long full skirts.

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INSIDE THE LEDGER

2001
A LOOK BACK
PAGES 11-38



OBITUARIES

DUMBECK - James Louis Dumbeck, aged 59, of Lowell, passed away December 16, 2001. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary. Mr. Dumbeck is survived by his children, Mark Dumbeck of Muskegon, Marchelle (Chris) Page of Lowell; grandchild-

ren, Kayleigh, Brennan and Brooke Page; brothers, Norman Dumbeck, Francis Dumbeck; sisters Stella Deyerix and Veronica McCellan. Visitation Wed. 2-4 and 7-9 at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson. Funeral Services will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Lowell. Pastor W. Lee Taylor and Pastor Burland Margesson, officiating. Interment Coral Cemetery.

FLYNN - Barbara Lucille Sweet Murray, of Grand

Ledge, formerly of Alto, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at Thornapple Manor in Hastings, at the age of 82. "Bobbie" was born March 24, 1919, the daughter of Edward A. and Anna K. (Sprout) Sweet. Mrs. Flynn was preceded in death by both her parents; husbands Paul Everett Murray and Clair Flynn; sister Geraldine Ducap; brother Frank Sweet; twin sister Bessie Deitz. She is survived by her children Raymond L. Murray, Pauline R. (Harold) Everett, Alice I. (Donald) Sleeman, Patrick P. (Janice) Murray; 16 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; sisters: Melba Drake, Aletha Shepard, Jackie Baker, Marion Smith and brother Phil Sweet. Funeral services were held Saturday at the First Baptist Church of Sebawa, Lake Odessa with the Rev. J. Andrew Frey officiating. For those wishing, contributions may be made to Gideon Bible c/o Rosier Funeral Home P.O. Box 36, Sunfield, MI 48890. Interment in Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell.

Clarence and Debby of Nederland, CO, Jenny Duke of Lowell; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Jennie ran a cleaning service for many years. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and traveling and was a member of Lakeside Community Christian Reformed Church. Funeral services were held Thursday. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to your favorite charity. "There is no place closer to God than in my flower garden."

WATTERS - Mrs. Eva Watters, aged 83, of Grand Rapids, passed away Monday, December 10, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband Raymond. She is survived by her stepchildren, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place and there was a funeral service on Saturday at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Chapel. Chaplain John Poston and Pastor John Steigenga of LaGrave Ave., Christian Reformed Church, officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan or the charity of your choice.

JAGT - Jantje "Jennie" Jagt, aged 82, born February 26, 1919, in Emmen, Netherlands, went to be with her Lord, Monday, December 10, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband Jacob, son Klass and great-grandchild Trent. She is survived by her children Al and Judy Jagt of Ada, Gerrit Jagt of Vancouver, WA.

Fallasburg hosts old-fashioned Christmas

The village of Fallasburg will come alive with that feeling of an old-fashioned Christmas this weekend.

Houses and the covered bridge will be decorated, the street will be lined with luminaries and the one-room schoolhouse will be filled with merriment and refreshments of wassail and cookies for all to enjoy.

Escape from the hectic pace and join in for this peaceful start of Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the village of Fallasburg.

BOND FOLLOW-UP - Jim White reported that the new elementary school is on hold but that all drawings are done. The plans for the addition to the high school are underway and are close to being complete. He then gave a recap of dollars spent on projects to date.

DISTRICT VISION - Bert Bleke shared draft #10 of the district vision entitled "Vision - Balanced Prepared Learners."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Bert Bleke thanked the entire staff for increasing their giving to the United Way even in light of giving much for the family members of victims of the recent September 11 terrorist attack. There have been wonderful holiday concerts at the building, and kids did great in athletics. High school students were commended for their display of the character traits in raising so much money for the Flat River Outreach ministries and other worthy projects.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, Jan. 14, 2002 • 7:00 p.m.
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The following offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th, 2001 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Monday, December 31st, 2001 and Tuesday, January 1, 2002 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

LOWELL LIGHT AND POWER AND LOWELL CABLE VISION

The following offices will close on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th, and 25th, 2001 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and Tuesday, January 1st, 2002 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

**LOWELL CITY HALL OFFICES
LOWELL POLICE OFFICES
AND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**



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LOWELL SCHOOL BOARD BRIEFS

Summary of the Regular Meeting of the Lowell Board of Education
Held on December 10, 2001

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT - Jason Craig, Student Council President and Representative to the Board, reported that the Christmas dance raised \$800 and the bachelor auction \$1,000 with proceeds going to the Flat River Outreach Ministries. The food drive raised 1,200 nonperishable items which went to the food pantry at the Flat River Outreach Ministries. Student council members are also giving \$5 per person to "adopt-a-family" culminating in a shopping spree to bring gifts to the disadvantaged.

STUDENT REPORT - Grants: Unity High School - Artist in Residence Program - John Stempfen, Unity High School teacher, along with students Keely Wolf and Samantha Wingler shared how the artist in residence program is not only helping them to develop their artistic abilities but to also learn historical facts. Bob Woodruff is the artist who has been working with the students. This program is provided by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and was submitted as a collaborative effort by the Lowell Area Arts Council and Unity High School.

ACTION ITEMS - Accepted the following gifts:

- Pete Bush donation of computer equipment to be used by the high school CAM machines.
- Sandi White donation of infant car seat and infant toys valued at \$84 to be used by the Lowell TOTS program. Amended the 2001-2002 general fund budget. In addition, there was considerable discussion regarding potential cuts due to the declining state revenue.
- **CONSENT ITEMS** - Approved/Adopted were:
 - The minutes for the November 12, 2001 regular meeting, the November 26 special meeting.
 - The following payment of bills for October 2001:

GENERAL FUND	\$888,505.68
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND	
A. Food Service Fund	\$82,008.25
B. Athletic Fund	\$43,961.98
Headlee Underfunding	\$8,275.04
2000 CONSTRUCTION FUND	\$57,377.42
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND	\$39,330.43
 - Leave:
 - Child care leave request from Jennifer Bolhuis for the 2nd semester of the 2001-2002 school year.
 - New Hire:
 - Sheri Woolery Middle School Social Worker
 - Purchase of 2 buses from Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company for the 2002-2003 school year in the amount of \$53,708 each.

Bushnell's Bounty

Bushnell Elementary students collected over 1,100 non-perishable food items this holiday season for Lowell's Flat River Outreach Ministries. The event was coordinated by Bushnell kindergarten teacher, Susan Barry. "This was part of our focus on compassion and character traits," Barry said. The food items were picked up and delivered to the food pantry on Friday. Pictured to the left is Barry's class.



Consumers Power's donation energizes museum campaign

Upon his visit to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, Consumers Power area manager, Ernie Sakraska presented Judy Straub and museum board president, Jim Doyle with a check for \$2,000 toward the second phase of the museum's capital campaign. The funds came through the Consumers Energy Foundation. "I was approached by the Lowell Area Historical Museum last spring for a donation," Sakraska explained. "I told Judy I thought she'd be able to get more if she wrote a grant to our foundation." Straub learned three weeks ago that her grant-writing effort secured \$2,000 for the capital campaign. As for Sakraska's visit to the museum, "I like the transformations from period to period. I learned a lot about Lowell walking through the museum," he said. The goal for the second phase of the campaign is to raise \$235,000. In phase one of the museum campaign, over \$268,000 was raised. Individuals, businesses, civic groups, foundations and Lowell's three units of government all lent support toward its creation.



Pictured to the left, from left to right, are Judy Straub, Ernie Sakraska and Jim Doyle.

A Swedish Christmas custom is the existence of a Christmas gnome, call "tomte." At Christmas he carries a sack of presents over his shoulder, and pulls out gifts for the household members.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
The first official Times Square New Year's Eve celebration took place in 1904. A party was held on a roof for editors of a local magazine.

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CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

For the Regular Meeting of **MONDAY, December 3, 2001.**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Blough and the City Clerk called Roll.

Present: Councilmembers Brubaker, Green, Myers, Shores and Mayor Blough.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, Chief of Police James Valentine, Planning Commissioner Jim Pfaller, Planning Commission Chairman Jim Hall, Downtown Historic District Commission Chairman Stephen Doyle and Police Officer James Hinton.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by SHORES to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2001 regular meeting as written.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by MYERS to excuse the absence of Councilmember Brubaker from the November 19, 2001 meeting.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by BRUBAKER that the bills and accounts payable be allowed and the warrants issued.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (12/03/01)

GENERAL FUND	\$99,826.60
MAJOR STREET FUND	2,286.10
LOCAL STREET FUND	4,251.03
DDA FUND	12,710.71
CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION FUND	6,263.10
WASTEWATER FUND	30,074.97
WATER FUND	9,080.18
DATA PROCESSING FUND	542.07
EQUIPMENT FUND	30.55
CURRENT TAX FUND	5,407.90
LOOK FUND	552.00

Mayor Blough introduced State Representative Jim Koetje. Koetje explained he would be Lowell's new State Representative once the upcoming election takes place, due to the redistricting. Lowell's current State Representative, Doug Hart, will encompass much of Koetje's former district.

Presently, Koetje serves on the Commerce Committee, Civil Judiciary Committee, Vice Chairman of the Land Use Committee and Chairman on the Gaming and Casino Committee.

This is Koetje's second term and he looks forward to working with the City of Lowell.

Item #1. LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS - COLLECTION OF SUMMER TAXES FOR 2002. As in previous years, the Lowell Area Schools has requested the City collect the summer property taxes for the district. As part of continuing resolution, the City collects LAS property taxes at no fee but is able to keep the interest earned during the bank deposit before distributing these monies. Thus, City Manager Pasquale recommended the current policy for collecting summer taxes be maintained and a resolution passed.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by SHORES to collect the Lowell Area Schools summer taxes for 2002 as proposed.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM (PTAS) UPGRADE PROJECT - FINAL CONSIDERATION OF AMENDED AGREEMENT. Mayor Blough suggested tabling the item until Assistant Kent County Administrator Al Vanderberg was present. Councilmember Brubaker stated the letter from

Vanderberg notes that 15 local units approved the agreement in its previous form. He inquired if the Lowell City Council was one of those. Pasquale responded yes. By general consensus, the Council agreed to table the item until Vanderberg arrived.

Item #3. CONSIDERATION OF REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION RELATED TO PURCHASE OF NEW PUMPER FIRE TRUCK. At its October 15, 2001 meeting, the Council approved the purchase of a pumper/tanker fire truck from Spencer Manufacturing, Inc. at a cost of \$283,415. A \$100,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund was received toward the purchase. The balance is divided between the City, Lowell and Vergennes Townships.

The resolution would allow the City to finance a portion of the purchase price at a tax exempt installment purchase agreement during the time the truck is delivered. The City will solicit proposals from local financial institutions for this purpose. Pasquale recommended the Council adopt the resolution. Chief Martin stated the townships are also in favor of the resolution.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by MYERS to adopt the reimbursement resolution related to the purchase of a new pumper fire truck as proposed.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #4. AWARD OF BIDS - SELLING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MOVING A HOUSE LOCATED AT 310 AVERY. An advertisement for bids was provided for the purchase of the recently acquired 310 Avery for the purpose of moving the residence. One bid was received on the bid opening date of November 29. Roger Cahoon of 504 E. Main Street submitted the only bid of \$1,000 (the minimum acceptable).

Councilmember Shores inquired if there was a time limit as to when the house had to be moved. City Manager Pasquale responded this was not mentioned in the advertisement. Pasquale believed the City would not be considering construction until sometime in June. He felt the house would be moved sometime in the Spring.

Councilmember Myers inquired what the cost would have been to demolish the house. Pasquale responded the previous bids received for demolition on other structures were between three and four thousand dollars. Myers was grateful there was someone interested in moving the house and saving the City a considerable amount of money. He questioned the Council's position toward waiving specific fees. Shores believed this would create future problems with other possible purchases and would be opposed to such an offer.

IT WAS MOVED BY SHORES and seconded by GREEN to accept Roger Cahoon's bid of \$1,000 for the purchase of 310 Avery Street with the house being moved no later than May 30, 2002.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Item #5. CITIZEN COMMENTS: Mayor Blough explained the City of Lowell has been contacted by Lowell and Vergennes townships with regard to preserving significant natural areas. The proposed study includes the City. Planning Commission Chairman Jim Hall attended the meeting held on November 28, 2001 in order to understand the proposal provided by the group. Hall explained the Natural Conservancy is a group of students from a local college who would survey the natural areas. The students investigate specific plants and geology. The program will probably be very little benefit to the City, except for being close to both townships. The committee will provide documentation to the Lowell Area Community Fund. Hall noted the group has already completed a study of Ada. From this, Hall believed such a study would be a good planning tool for all Planning Commissions involved.

Blough noted the Committee would submit an application to the Lowell Area Community Fund for funding. The proposed study would include the City of Lowell as well as Lowell and Vergennes townships. As Hall pointed out, the City probably does not have significant natural areas. However, such a study could provide a planning tool which could be used in the future. Councilmember Brubaker inquired if the idea was to have the natural conservation area study lead to local governmental regulations. Hall responded the program was strictly on a

voluntary basis only. If a significant area is found, the property owner would be made aware of this. However, if not interested, no further contact would be made. IT WAS MOVED BY MYERS and seconded by SHORES to support the resolution stating the City of Lowell supports jointly an effort to apply for funds for the significant natural areas study as proposed.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Hall also stated the Planning Commission and the Kent County Youth Fair wish to create a Master Plan for the Kent County Youth Fair property (Recreation Park). With the Department of Public Works, Waste Water Treatment Plant and Fire Station all needing possible expansion in the future, there would be less room for the Kent County Youth Fair and other associated functions. Owner Jim Reagan who has significant property across the street has consented and would allow this to be included in the overall study.

Pasquale noted the Master Plan recently undertaken by the Parks and Recreation Commission could be forwarded to the Committee. Councilmember Green believed the Committee may already have the answers available to them once the Master Plan is reviewed. Therefore, the Lowell Area Community Fund would not have to be utilized. Hall stated he would be present at the next meeting.

Hall also stated the Planning Commission reviewed the intersection of Hudson and Foreman streets. It was suggested instead of widening Foreman, it might make more sense to review the possibility of continuing Ridgeway north from Main Street to Foreman. Foreman would then run into Gee Drive at an intersection. This would allow truck traffic another way out of the City limits. Blough asked if City staff had reviewed the proposal. Pasquale responded briefly. Pasquale explained one advantage the City has is Gee Drive has been declared a Major Street. Therefore, State Shared Revenues can be utilized for improvements for this road. However, this is not available for the new street, which means local tax dollars would have to be used in order to provide the improvements.

Green asked if the City requested an engineering study on the corner of Hudson and Foreman. Pasquale responded this is currently being done. Pasquale noted he endorses the proposal, it's just a financial burden at this point. Brubaker questioned what the other designation was being reviewed for Gee Drive. Pasquale responded Federal Urban Aid Systems. He noted Foreman is eligible to receive 80 percent funding on construction projects. This is also being considered for Gee Drive. However, an updated traffic count is necessary. Pasquale stated even if the street does qualify, it may be five plus years before monies are received.

Shores inquired if there was a way to know whether trucks are traveling west to Alden Nash. Valentine responded the factories have been asked to inform the drivers when leaving and also post it to direct trucks to the west.

Myers asked if the Commission had reviewed the possibility of reaching Godfrey from Foreman. Hall responded Godfrey is almost out of the question because of its connection with Lincoln Lake and the turns which need to be made. No further information was provided.

Item #6. PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM (PTAS) UPGRADE PROJECT - FINAL CONSIDERATION OF AMENDED AGREEMENT. At its April 24, 2000 meeting, the City Council approved the upgrade of the PTAS tax administration system, which handles the Assessing and Treasurer functions for Kent County. The upgraded system is the "best of class" software for tax administration and eliminates "double entry" performed by the local assessor and the Bureau of Equalization for reconciliation.

Final amended agreement contains several minor changes. The intent remains the same. Councilmember Green inquired if the annual fee changed at all. Pasquale responded no. IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN and seconded by SHORES to adopt the final agreement for the Property Tax Administration System (PTAS) upgrade project with Kent County.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.



Brownies to Deliver Holiday Ornaments

Lowell Brownie Troop 1824 has been busy making Angel and Santa ornaments along with decorating gift bags for children at Metropolitan, Spectrum Health Blodgett, Mary Free Bed and Saint Mary's.

The girls will deliver the gifts on Thursday, Dec. 20. Upon delivery, they will sing a few Christmas Carols. "These girls are a very caring and loving troop," said leader Angela Denison. She shares those duties with Lacie Aherns.

Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Julie Smith, Molly Denison, Nicole Platz, Katie Aherns, Kendra Campbell, Nicole Cummings, Brigitte Casalina and Kendra Black; back row, left to right, are: Bailey Loughlin, Mattie Newman, Samantha Poll, Emily Mundwiler, Emily Dec, Maranda Mayes-Johnson, Heather Dimmick, Jamie Billings and Annette Kehoe.

Lowell graduate faces lengthy recovery

Trent and Jeni Rummelt, owners of the Solid Impact Fitness Gym in Caledonia, are in stable condition at Mary Free Bed in Grand Rapids after suffering from injuries in a traffic accident on Route 80 near Cedar Rapids, IA, on Saturday, Nov. 24.

They were flown here on Dec. 4 from a Iowa city hospital where they had both gone through extensive surgery from broken bones. Trent's brother, Chad, was pronounced dead at the scene. His parents, Jeff and Ann (Rummelt) Ulin were still in critical condition and will remain at the hospital in Iowa until they can be transported to a local hospital in this area. Family members and many loyal friends are running Solid

Impact Fitness Gym until Trent and Jeni are back on their feet. Each had a broken leg and other injuries, and need physical therapy. Jeni has a 12 percent chance of walking again because of her back injury with a cramped spinal cord. She is determined to walk again and needs lots of prayers from her hometown community.

She is a graduate of Lowell High School and the daughter of Jim and Jerry Francis. Her husband grew up in the Grand Rapids area. Chad was his only brother and was preceded in death by their father. Trent is hoping to be released from the hospital this week.

People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost.
-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



Trent and Jeni Rummelt

Red Arrow icers skate past Knights and Sailors

Lowell defeated Kenowa Hills 9-4 on Friday. Corey Kelly scored 5 goals with assists from Ted McCoy and Brandon John. McCoy also added 2 goals with assists from John, Ramsey Charrouf and John Truszkowski. John and Kyle Austin also scored with assists from Truszkowski, Pat McMahon and Jeff Moore.

Lowell defeated South Christian 8-2 on Saturday. McCoy led the way with 3 goals and two assists while John contributed 2 goals and 3 assists. Additional goals were scored by Kelly, David Sweeney and Aaron Benmark with assists by Charrouf and David Blair.

The next game for Lowell JV is Saturday, Dec. 22 at 9 p.m. against South Christian at Standard Federal Ice Center.

A newspaper is a circulating library with high blood pressure.

Author Unknown

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CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Item #7. COUNCIL COMMENTS. Councilmember Shores commented on the Christmas parade and festivities held on December 1, 2001. She was not able to attend, but heard it was a huge success. There were over 60 entries in the parade and many volunteers participated.

Councilmember Brubaker echoed Shores comments. Councilmember Myers has been requested by the Kent County Commissioners to be reappointed to the Kent District Library Board of Trustees. He has served on the board for approximately one and a half years now. He also has been serving on the KDL Pension Board. He asked for the endorsement of the City Council.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRUBAKER and seconded by SHORES to forward a recommendation to Kent County that Charles Myers be reappointed to the Kent District Library Board.

YEA: 5.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

Myers also stated City Manager Pasquale has been very

consistent with his attendance at the Metro Council Transportation Committee meetings. This shows very well for our City. Councilmember Green stated the parade was great and it was very well attended.

Item #8. MANAGER'S REPORT. City Manager Pasquale reported on the following:

- A. The following meetings minutes were provided:
- Downtown Historic District Commission meeting of October 10, 2001
 - Grand Valley Metro Council - Transportation Policy Committee meeting of October 17, 2001
 - Planning Commission meeting of October 22, 2001
 - Lowell Community Walking Trails meeting of November 14, 2001
 - Community Leadership Cooperation meeting of November 16, 2001.
- B. A letter was received from Ruth McCrank, deputy Director of the Kent District Library, explaining KDL's contract with Unique Management, which has successfully collected many overdue materials.
- C. In a conversation with Pasquale, John Winters of the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources said he was familiar with the White's Bridge property donated to the State from the City and its development for a canoe launch. He mentioned he would respond back by early January.

Item #9. APPOINTMENTS. Mayor Blough stated there are two vacancies on the Planning Commission. Any interested citizens should make application to the Mayor through the City staff. A short letter as to why they wish to serve and qualifications will be considered by Council. Myers noted one individual who may be interested in serving on the Commission. He is a registered appraiser. Mayor Blough stated there is one more meeting in this calendar year. He asked the Council to support a referendum for him to vacate the Mayor's chair for the last meeting and have Councilmember Green chair the meeting, due to this being his last. The Councilmembers agreed.

IT WAS MOVED BY GREEN to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.
DATE APPROVED: Monday, December 17, 2001
Michael K. Blough, Mayor
Betty R. Morlock, Clerk



Along Main Street

YMCA HOLIDAY HOURS

The Lowell Wellness Center hours are: Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) from 5:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Dec. 25 (Closed); Dec. 26: 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) from 5:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Jan. 1: Closed. The Teen Center and Lowell Main Office will be closed on Dec. 24/25 and Dec. 31/Jan. 1.

WINTER FAST PITCH CLINIC TO BE OFFERED

Lowell High School softball coaches will hold a winter

fast pitch clinic for all elementary and middle school girls interested in becoming a softball pitcher. Alto gym: Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7, 14, 21. Grades 6 and under at 6 p.m.; grades 7-8 at 7 p.m. Cost: \$25, includes a T-shirt. Call Bob Rodenhouse at 897-4125 or 245-4596 for info.

MUSEUM HOLIDAY HOURS AND NEW DOCENT TRAINING

The Lowell Area Historical Museum, with galleries featuring Lowell's early history, industry and retailing, as well as the showboat, will be open during Christmas break. If you and your family are looking for something interesting and fun to do, stop in on Thursday between 1 and 8 p.m.; or Saturday/Sunday between 1 and 4 p.m. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

Museum docent training will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. If interested in being a volunteer and providing a much needed service, contact Judy at 897-7688.

LIBRARY BRANCHES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

The Englehardt and Alto branches of Kent District Library and the KDL Service Center will be closed Monday, Dec. 24

and Tuesday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday, Dec. 26. They will also be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

CLASS OF 1960 TO MEET AT BOB EVANS

There will be a breakfast held at the Bob Evans on 28th St., west of Cascade, at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28 for the Lowell class of 1960. Bring your spouse or a friend.

WINTER ARTS CLASSES AT LAAC

The Lowell Area Arts Council will be offering Winter Arts Classes for children (ages 5-12) and teens and adults beginning the week of January 21. To receive a listing of the class offerings, call 897-8545 or e-mail: lowellartscouncil@ameritech.net.

NEW LOCATION FOR YOUR NEWSPAPERS

The Lowell High School girls softball team is still collecting newspapers and phonebooks... But there is a new location for dropping them off - It is now at Family Fare parking lot in the trailer near Main Street.

to 45 pounds; our yard becomes a fast food stop on the way south.

We share our property, which includes good bird habitat, with a variety of other creatures. The woods provide cover which protects the birds from predators as well as the weather. The feeders are placed under a canopy of tree branches which discourage owls and hawks from swooping in and picking off unsuspecting diners. One day we noticed that all the birds had suddenly disappeared. The reason became apparent when we spotted a red-tailed hawk perched in a nearby oak. After a while, the hawk left and the birds quickly returned. Those little fellows are more alert than you might think.

The feeders dangle from wire strung high enough to not pose a threat to human traffic and still prevent local squirrels from sharing the buffet. The squirrels proved to be formidable adversaries as several of our early squirrel foiling attempts met with failure. Sometimes the neighborhood cats come around, but so far they haven't had any luck bagging songbirds. Again, the height of the feeders provides security for the birds.

The front of our house is near the feeders and has glass doors and large windows which could be a collision hazard.

We have, however, never witnessed or found evidence of a fatality caused by an accidental crash. The large deck in front of the windows must tip them off to the danger, otherwise, we would have to decorate the glass to warn the birds.

Several tall dense blue spruce trees shelter the birds from cold, wind, and rain. We set out a few bird houses, but the majority of the flock find their own accommodations.

Some birds require special attention. The liquid hummingbird food is kept fresh and is removed from the yard in early fall so the tiny birds will not stay too long before heading south. A store-bought suet cake hangs in a wire mesh box with a copper roof on it especially for the woodpeckers, but they do share it with other species. All the birds appreciate the water in the bird bath hanging from a limb. Also, keeping the area and feeders clean helps to prevent illness among the flock.

Many of the birds, particularly the chickadees, will continue to use the feeders while we are standing only a few feet away. There is plenty of activity in the yard to provide enjoyment year-round. Those of you who feed birds know what I mean. If you do decide to give bird feeding a try yourself, take care to provide a safe environment for our feathered friends.

OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



FOR THE BIRDS

Many years ago, my wife Gwen began feeding birds in our yard. We haven't done any research or even casual reading on bird feeding, so our knowledge on the subject has come from trial and error. Each spring we seem to have more feathered guests than the year before. During the summer, the birds consume about 30 pounds of sunflower seeds a month. The peak comes in the fall as the birds gather for their journey to more hospitable regions. At that time, the volume will grow

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Catlin first Red Arrow since 1994 to be named to first team all-state

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell quarterback, Mark Catlin became just the seventh Red Arrow football player to be honored with first-team all-state status.

The last Red Arrow to earn that distinction was offensive lineman, Ron Acheson in 1994.

Catlin was also named the Lowell Lions Club's Most Valuable Player on of-

fense, the first-team all-conference quarterback, and named to the Grand Rapids All Area team.

This year's senior class leaves Lowell having posted the most wins (20) over a two-year period.

Coming off its third consecutive playoff appearance, there were multiple Red Arrows who earned post-season honors.

Linebacker, Travis

DeVold was named the Lowell Lions Club Most Valuable defensive player, named to the O-K White all-conference team, and to the Grand Rapids All Area second team.

Brandon Biggs, defensive end, was the third Red Arrow to earn all-league status. He was also named to the Grand Rapids All Area team.

All-conference honorable mention honors were handed out to Brad Eldridge (receiver)

and Bill Harrison (defensive back).

Earning Grand Rapids All Area honorable mention status were linemen, Ben Fleet and Ben Vaught.

Receiving team awards were Pat Kaufman and Jason

Craig, Coach's Award; Nick Onan (offense) and Brian Green (defense), Coach Burch Award; Brad Eldridge and Zach Beachum, Phil Christensen Award; Philip Moerdyke and Matt Barry, Scholar Athlete Award; Ben

Fleet, Sportsmanship Award; Austin Hunt, Most Improved; Vaughn (offense) and Biggs (defense) Trench Award. Lowell's Pete Huston was named assistant coach of the year.

Red Arrow powerlifters off to strong start

Led by their coach, Noel Dean, the Lowell Powerlifting team began their 2001-02 season at home hosting the annual Lowell Invitational.

Lowell lifters dominated the event, winning 57 total medals - 29 firsts, 17 seconds and 11 thirds.

Teams from as far away as Lee, Farwell, Evert, Owosso, Walled Lake Western, Maple Valley and Caledonia participated.

Powerlifting meets are based on three events - the squat, the bench press and dead lift. The total weight of these lifts determines winners in the different weight classes.

Winners in their weight divisions were as follows:

Women's Division:
97 pounds - Melissa Plotner, 385 pounds.
114 - Megan Beachum, 400 pounds.
132 - Samantha Mendez, 520 pounds.
148 - Tara Cariano, 570 pounds.
181 - Erin Rolfe, 530 pounds.

Junior Varsity Men:
123 pounds - Dustin Osborne, 545 pounds
132 - Dan Palasek, 795 pounds.
145 - Sean Meyer, 805 pounds.
145 - Matt D'Agostino, 860 pounds
155 - Tom Eldridge, 820 pounds.
165 - Scott Perdaris, 735 pounds.

165 - Dan Vegter, 1,000 pounds.
198 - Frank Esbaugh, 875 pounds.
198 - Dustin VanLoon, 1,300.
220 - Paul Schellenberger, 1070 pounds.
242 - Brendon Harden, 1040 pounds.

Varsity:
132 pounds - Jason Krieg, 775 pounds.
165 - Travis DeVold, 1,035 pounds.
198 - Jordan Moore, 1,175 pounds.
220 - Ryan White, 900 pounds.
242 - Mike DeVries, 1,230 pounds.
275 - Dave Hefferan, 1,175 pounds.
Super Heavy Weight - Jason Hill, 1,180 pounds.

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Lowell 'plays over' past frustrations in victory over defending champs

••• Hustle and heart help Lowell upset Forest Hills Northern 53-52 in an O-K White thriller.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Before each game, Forest Hills Northern basketball coach, Steve Harvey writes on the locker room chalkboard a reminder to his Huskies.

He did so again Friday night before the Huskies took the floor against Lowell.

The message read "The best team doesn't always win; it's the team that plays best."

Following Lowell's 53-52 upset win over the defending O-K White champions, Harvey's Huskies may have learned a difficult, early-season lesson.

"I don't know. I'll be able to answer that in five games," Harvey said. What he did know was, "Lowell played a heck of a game. They took us out of our rhythm."

Harvey's coaching counterpart, first-year coach, Jeff McDonald shared an inspirational message with his club during a timeout with four minutes to play and his Red Arrows trailing by four.

"I told them they had played their hearts out for 28 minutes, and now it was time to win the game in the last four minutes," McDonald explained. "I also told them if they have never dove for a loose ball or never boxed out in their life ... now was the time to do it."

Following the words of their leader, the Red Arrows, over the final four minutes, grabbed a handful of defensive rebounds, played tireless man-to-man defense and outscored the Huskies 8-3.

Lowell trailed FHN 43-36 entering the final eight minutes. The Huskies got their lead to eight early in the fourth, but were never able to shed an inspired and hungry Lowell club.

Trailing 46-38, Lowell's Bill Harrison drained a three,

cutting the deficit to five.

Trailing 49-42, Harrison and Sam Oberlin sunk both ends of a one-on-one, cutting the Huskie advantage to three at 49-46.

Trailing 52-47 with under three minutes to play, Harrison struck for three again, cutting the deficit to two at 52-50.

Then, with 1:42 to play, two foul shots by Oberlin tied the contest for the first time.

The two clubs exchanged turnovers before Northern missed on two foul shots with 51 seconds to play.

Lowell took its only lead of the night when Andy McQueen netted the second of two shots from the line, giving Lowell a 53-52 lead with 19 seconds to play.

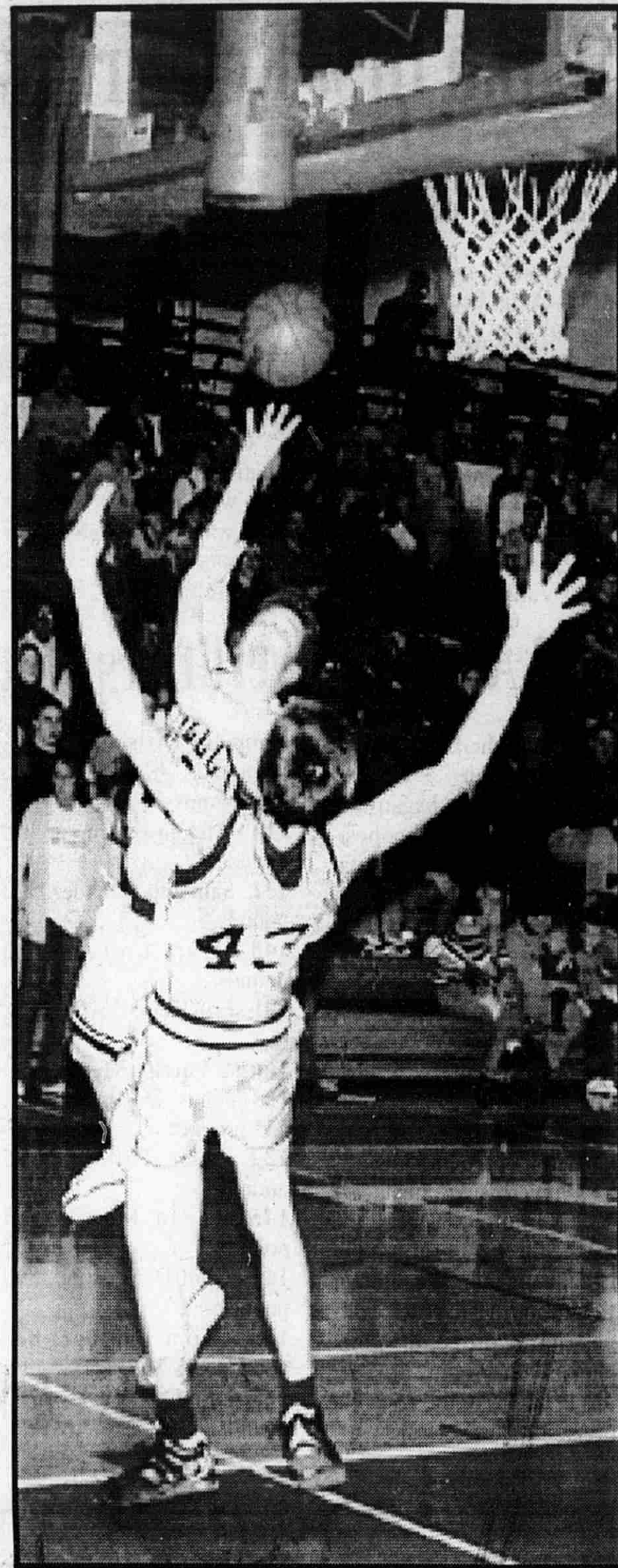
Northern's two attempts to win the game in the final 13 seconds failed.

"Our kids fought over adversity and big time foul trouble tonight," McDonald said. "Every time I saw frustration on their faces, I told them to play over it. There were times where it would have been easy to say, 'Here we go again,' but they didn't... tonight they competed."

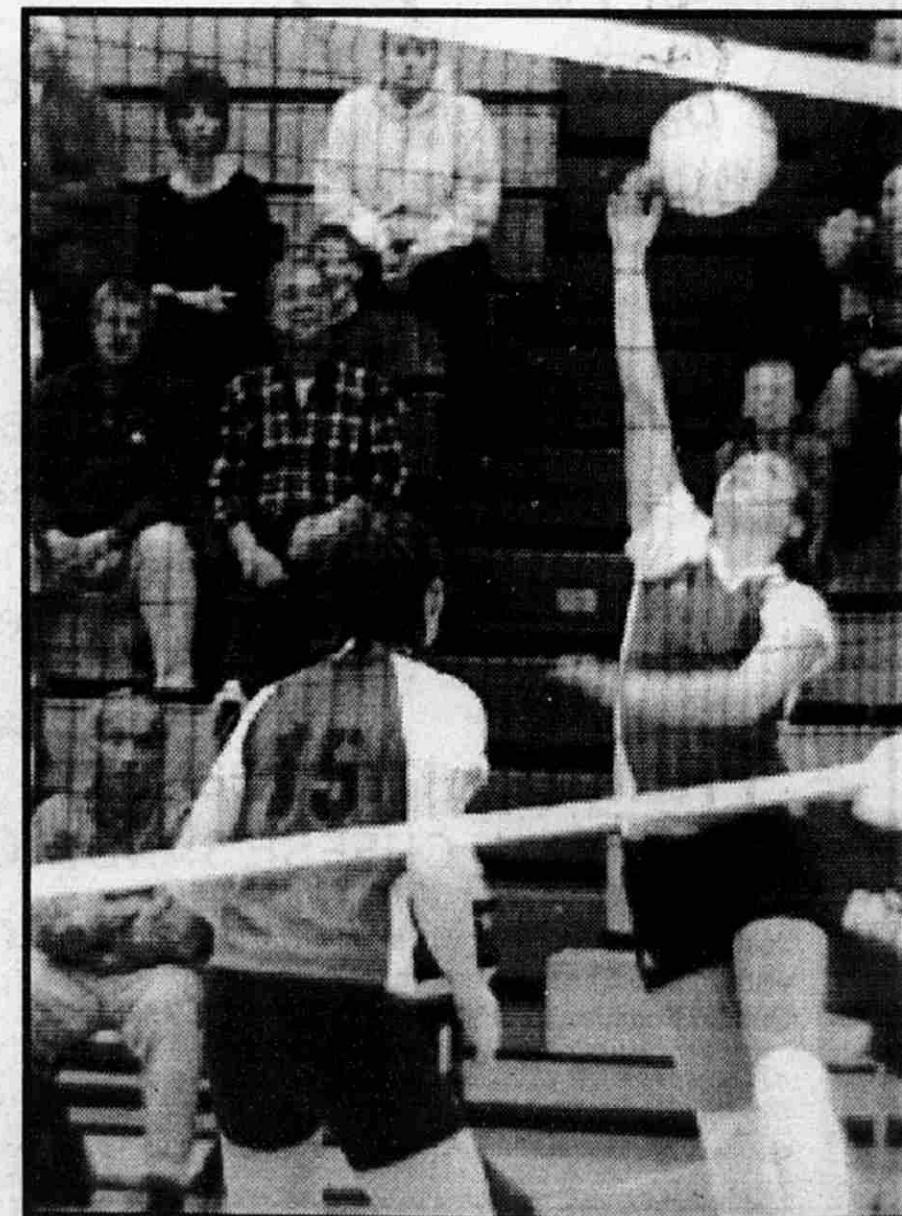
Lowell had three players in double figures. Oberlin had a game-high 17. Harrison tossed in 13 (eight in the fourth quarter) and Mark Biener tallied 12.

"Mark gave us some energy and scoring off the bench," McDonald said. "He has a nose for the ball. He got us some big rebounds."

The win came against one of the area's better basketball programs. "Tonight we played hard against a team that plays hard all the time," McDonald said. "Forest Hills Northern is a measuring stick for us. I respect the way Steve's (Harvey) kids play. Our goal is to compete at their level on a consistent basis."



Lowell's Bill Harrison charged ahead during first half action against the Huskies. Harrison scored eight of his 13 points in the pivotal fourth quarter.



Lowell's Jenell Gemmell extends for a tip in high school volleyball action against Greenville on Thursday.

Red Arrow netters survive three-setter against Greenville

By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell's inability to finish a point was only exceeded by its blocking and defensive tenacity, as the Red Arrow volleyball team upended Greenville 12-15, 15-13, 15-13.

"These girls don't quit. They keep battling and going after you," said Lowell coach, Connie Black.

Lowell, minus the big hitter, battled for every point in its three-set match with a young Yellowjacket club.

"We're starting to mesh," said Greenville volleyball coach, Teresa Evspamer. "The difference tonight was our inability to close."

Greenville, which trailed by as many as five (7-2) in game

one, battled back to take a 9-7 advantage, only to see Lowell regain the lead at 12-10.

The Yellowjackets, however, closed it out with five consecutive points.

Game two had a similar start as the Red Arrows raced out to leads of 3-0, 6-1 and 9-3. Greenville rallied with an 8-1 run to take an 11-10 lead. Lowell responded with four consecutive points to regain the lead at 14-11.

Greenville closed the gap to 14-13 before Lowell closed out the game.

The final game was a seesaw affair from the opening serve. There were six lead changes and one tie before Lowell recorded the two-point win.

"We didn't match Lowell's intensity. I think that has to do with our youth," Evspamer explained.

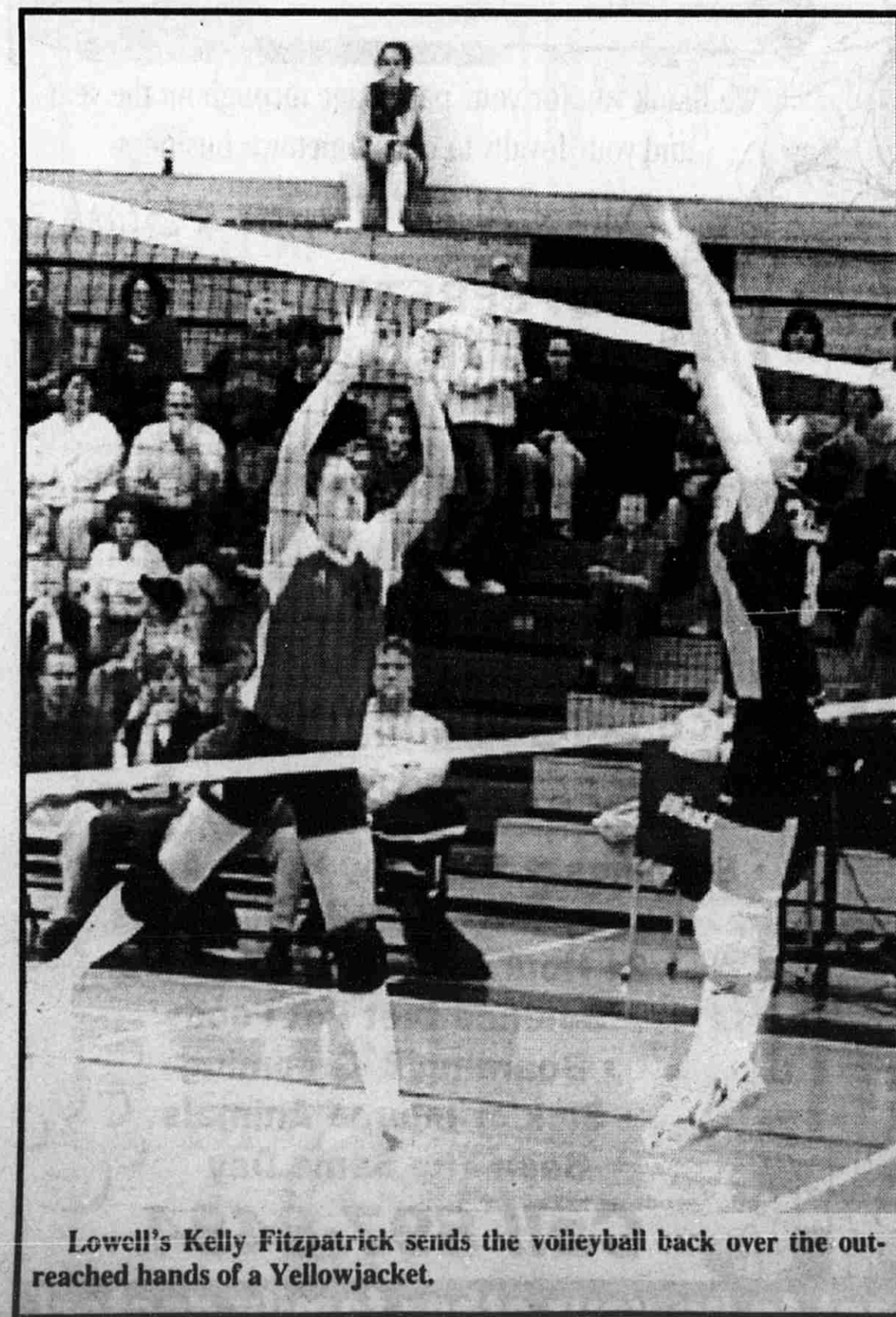
Lowell's serving percentage for the match was 90 percent (71-of-76). Courtney Phillips was the service leader, good on all 16 of her serves.

Kelly Fitzpatrick led all Red Arrows in blocks with eight (seven solo).

Katelyn Bush tallied a team-leading nine assists while Jenell Gemmell posted three digs. Heather Becker, Cori Drenth and Fitzpatrick each had two kills.

"We can build on this win. Because we don't have big hitters, we need to play good defense and block well," Black said. "These girls can and should be able to win some games this year."

With the win over Greenville, Lowell's record is now 10-3 (reflects games played).



Lowell's Kelly Fitzpatrick sends the volleyball back over the out-reached hands of a Yellowjacket.

These girls don't quit. They keep battling and going after you. We can build on this win. Because we don't have big hitters, we need to play good defense and block well. These girls can and should be able to win some games this year.

Connie Black
Lowell Volleyball Coach

Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

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The Ledger

YEAR-IN-REVIEW



2001 - Looking Back at the Year That Was

January 3, 2001

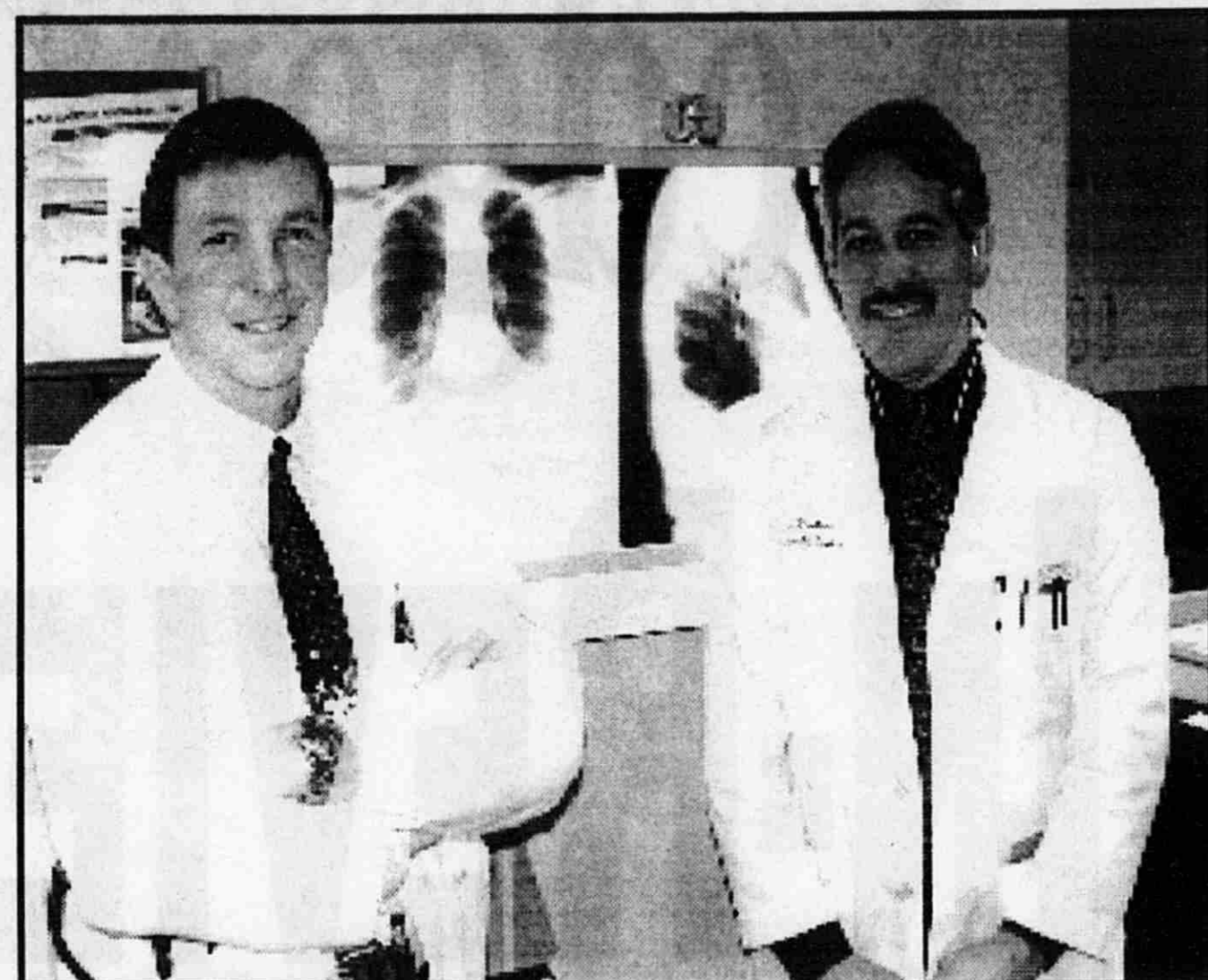
The cost to heat school buildings during the winter season is eating into many district budgets.

Natural gas is currently running between \$8 and \$10 per thousand cubic feet or \$8,900 per million cubic feet. Some schools in the West Michigan area are having to cut \$150-\$200,000 from their budget in order to cover the cost of heating classrooms this winter.

Two years ago Connie Gillette, Lowell Area Schools' assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, and Larry Mikulski, Lowell transportation and maintenance supervisor, agreed to enter Lowell into a CMS energy marketing pilot program. The program locked the district into a two-year contract obligating it to pay 2.6 cents per thousand cubic feet for natural gas. It turns out to be a money-saving decision.

Tom Friedrich, son of Ken and Judy Friedrich of Lowell, uses his dean's assistanceship award (\$2,800) to fund his study of the correlation between anxiety and how often college students drink.

Lowell Charter Town-



The new Lowell Family Medical Center gives Metropolitan Hospital a presence in the Lowell community and with it provides Lowell osteopaths, Paul Gauthier and James Lang with a new home for their independent practice.

Lang and Gauthier renovated a small house into the Lowell Family Medical Center, 147 N. Center, 20 years ago (Aug. 1980).



ship approves using a portion of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds toward helping the Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM).

Jim Doyle, LAHM president, appealed to the township to help fund the museum's handicap bathroom and ramp. The township said it would designate all \$13,000 but asked that Doyle and

LAHM ask the city and Vergennes Township to also contribute a portion. Bowne Township officials' annual Christmas party was held at township hall...

old historic township hall. Located on 84th Street, it serves as a temporary new township hall.

Township officials were forced to move from their offices at 6059 Linfield S.E. when mold and alpha toxins were detected by Environmental Health Resources through the testing of office walls, carpet and upholstery.

Matthew David Brown, 20, of Lowell, is arrested early Tuesday morning (Dec. 26) for an armed robbery at

2050 W. Main St. (Subway) Monday (New Year's Day) evening. The robbery took place at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Another year has passed and the city has several milestones of accomplishments including the purchasing of property for the City Hall/police station project.

"We were able to lay the foundation for the development of the City Hall/police station project which in turn

Review, cont'd, pg. 13



The Lowell High School Men's Club raises \$525 at their Dec. 8 Bachelor Auction.

The proceeds were donated to the Lowell Flat River Outreach Ministries. Presenting the check to Roger LaWarre was Kyle Hines, middle, and Mike Gustafson, right, with James Bossard and Matt Trierweiler.

LaWarre said the money would be used for the purchase of food and energy services.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 12

will have an impact on future projects," said Lowell mayor, Michael Blough.

But the City Hall/police station project was not the only accomplishment of the city for the year 2000. Others included: the upgrading of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, completion of a Streets and Sidewalks Master Plan, the placement of the Downtown Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, completion of a report of the Citizen's Advisory committee on Lowell Cable TV programs, the initiation of a study to re-rate the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the adoption of a Communications Tower Ordinance.

January 10, 2001

The city of Lowell will borrow ahead from its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to meet its established needs.

The city will borrow \$25,881.97 plus an additional \$14,119 from the 2002 funds available so monies can be distributed toward the Bowers Road sidewalk project, North Kent Transit assistance for senior citizen and handicapped riders, and assistance for barrier-free accessibility at the Graham Building (Lowell Area Historical Museum - LAHM).

The completion date for the water main river crossing project has been extended.

The \$1,000 a day late completion clause is still part of the contract.

"We won't make Nagle Construction liable for missing the Dec. 30 deadline, but it is liable if the Jan. 31 extension deadline is not met," said Lowell city councilman, Don Green.

Arnie Morrin, president of Nagel Construction, said the late start with severe weather has been a problem.

Once political, local and financial support are in place, the commencement of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program will begin.

The program will position an officer at the high school and middle school on a part-time basis.

SRO is an extension of the community policing program.

The city entrance to the south will receive a significant overhaul.

Work is scheduled to begin in late March and be completed by June 30.

It sounds like a grand New Year's resolution - to provide every teacher with a computer.

The Michigan Virtual University Teacher Technology Initiative (TTI) is estab-



The Lowell Showboat Garden Club presents Wittenbach Nature Center director, Tammy DeBaar, and Lowell Schools superintendent, Bert Bleke, a check for \$1,000 in support of the center.

lished to provide every teacher with a computer.

To be eligible, teachers must comply with all conditions and terms set forth by TTI.

January 17, 2001

Better usage of what the

school district already has in place may well be the best way to respond to the increasing need of diverse learners.

Pam Thomas, director of education and support services, introduces a Para-educator Certification program.

The intention is to provide basic skills and quality

preparation for para-educators to serve as an integral member of the classroom team.

The program was started two years ago in Oakland County and now lies on the doorstep of becoming a national approach.

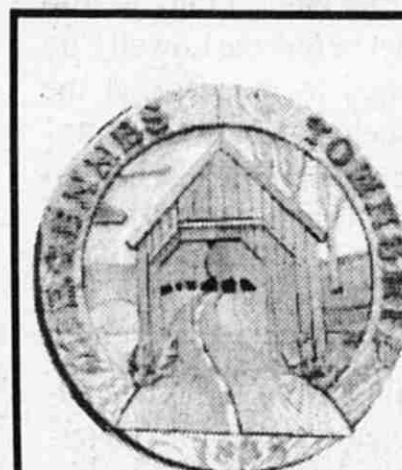
Lowell Charter Township's Grand River Riverfront Park was one of six West Michigan parks which received grants from the state's Clean Michigan Initiative program.

Township supervisor John Timpson announced that the township's grant was for \$199,655.

The money will be combined with \$100,000 of local money to help complete the Grand River Riverfront Park project.

John Allen receives a shovel from his wife for their 24th wedding anniversary.

It wasn't just any shovel. Its handle and spade were spray-painted a Notre Dame



Intarsia artist, Charles Bowman unveils a Vergennes Township logo created from the mighty oak tree which was cut down roughly two years ago.

Bowman cut, shaped, sanded and finished 92 pieces from that oak tree to create the unique wooden logo.

Review cont'd pg 14

Merry Christmas!

Christen Baerwalde, 10
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elem.

The Lowell Auto Dealers Association
Wish You And Yours A Happy Holiday Season

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Merry Christmas

Tyler SeEVERS, age 11
Mrs. PUPP
Cherry Creek Elem.

Animal Hospital & Pet Complex of Lowell
11610 E. Fulton, Lowell • 897-8484

Audra Hysell, age 10
Mr. Noskey
Cherry Creek Elem.

LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
Mark Evenhouse • John Mogor • Joan Miedema
1150 N. Hudson, Lowell • 897-8436

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 13

gold. The gift is in anticipation of the groundbreaking of the new 5,046 square foot building which will house Allen's eight-year-old business, Great Lakes Paving.

The new business site will be located in the O.E. Bieri Industrial Park, located north-west of the Lowell bus garage in Vergennes Township on Godfrey Street.

Negotiations between Lowell Charter Township and RailAmerica over a segment of abandoned railroad right-of-way may be headed for a derailment.

A township resident whose property is adjacent to the land in question claims if the land is abandoned by RailAmerica, it avers to an adjoining property owner, according to the abstract.

Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) was one of four projects allocated funds from the federally funded Community Development Block Grant by the Vergennes Township Board.

The board voted to allocate \$8,000 toward the handicap ramp project at the Lowell Area Historical Museum; \$3,000 to the Rockford Ambulance for a mobile transport stretcher; \$3,000 for fencing at the Fallsburg Cemetery; and \$1,000 to the North Kent Transit Service.

January 24, 2001

Sidewalk along Boves Road, the North Kent Transit program, and the Graham Building will be recipients of money from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The city, which is expected to receive about \$25,000 for the 2001 year, has moved forward to borrow

an additional \$15,000 from its 2002 funds so it can help with the improvements of the Graham Building.

The city of Lowell received a clean bill of health from its auditors for its financial year of 1999-2000.

Joe Tunes, from the auditing firm of Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson, and Dickinson, said the firm found the city's financial records to be in fair condition, adding that Sue Olin, city treasurer, and Char McNab, assistant financial director/investment officer, should be commended for their work in keeping the financial statements.

The city switched to a new CMI software program and even with that change, the firm didn't see any problems.

Every so often a vehicle simply has to be replaced. Such is the case of the Lowell Fire Department's water rescue vehicle.

Fire chief, Frank Martin comes before the Lowell City Council to request that the city help purchase a new water rescue vehicle. The cost of the vehicle, a 1993 Ford that was used as an ambulance, is \$6,500.

Impact on the surrounding area was the final determination for the first wireless communication tower in the city of Lowell.

The Lowell Planning Commission denies a special use request for the property at 2401 W. Main, owned by Todd Landman, in a 6-2 vote. The planning commission approves a special use request for a wireless communication tower at 2051 Boves Road, where Fuller Septic is located. The vote again was

6-2, with planning commission chairman James Hall and commissioner Clark Jahnke being the minority votes on both issues.

Alto Elementary School's annual PTO fall fundraiser turns into a January feast for 51 students.

The K-5 students at Alto, through the sale of candy and gift wrap, raise approximately \$8,000 over a 10-day period. Students sold roughly \$17,000 worth of merchandise from the Morley Candy Makers Company out of Clinton Township.

The revenues from the fundraiser are used for field trips, assemblies, fifth-grade camp and other student activities which are not covered in the school budget.

All students who sold 15 items or more had their name put in a drawing - 54 names were then pulled out. Those students (three were absent) were treated to a limousine ride to McDonald's; lunch was covered by the restaurant.

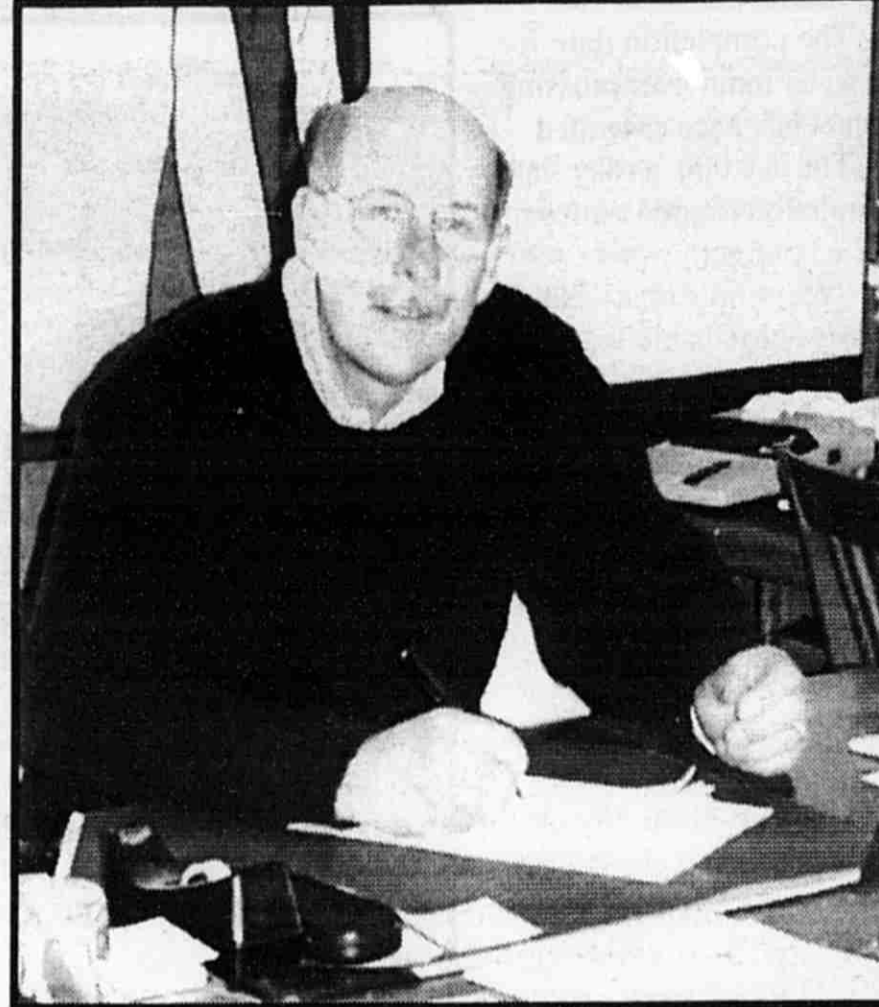
Kathryn Den Houter, the resident, has resided in Lowell for roughly 21 years.

Now, so does Den Houter, the practicing psychologist.

Den Houter, employed by Metro Health, has an office at the new Metro Health Lowell Plaza, 2550 W. Main.

Matthew Brown, 20, who was arraigned on armed robbery charges in connection with the Dec. 26 Subway robbery, talked to authorities prior to his preliminary hearing on Jan. 16.

What Brown had to say changed things. According to Lowell investigator Chris Hurst, Brown told officials he did not work alone. In fact,



Gil Brown requested that he be transferred to a smaller community. Brown got what he wished for when he was named the new Lowell postmaster. He entered his request upon hearing the Lowell postmaster position was available. It opened up when former Lowell postmaster, Sylvia Taylor was named Grand Rapids' Postal Service operations manager.

Brown confessed that he and three friends conspired to steal \$286.25 from Subway.

Two of Brown's friends were working at Subway and the fourth drove the getaway vehicle.

Brandon Pinney, 20, and Jennifer Pinney, 19, have been charged with conspiring to embezzle and making a false felony police report.

Josh Young, 19, the driver, has been charged with a misdemeanor conspiring to embezzle.

January 31, 2001

A survey of residents conducted by Vergennes Township indicates strong support for the preservation of land.

Lowell Charter Township prepares to add a lane to its information highway.

Township attorney, Bob Dugan has been contracted to develop and design a web site for it.

"The web site will make access to information more readily available," explained Paula Blumm, township board trustee. "The information will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The type of information web surfers will find includes meeting schedules, fee schedules, agendas, ordinances, maps, and park hours.

Lowell Charter Township Board approved the allocation of \$24,000 from its Community Development Block Grant funds for the 2001 year.

The funds will be distributed to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, North Kent Transit and Rockford Ambulance.

Alden Richard Hamilton suffers fatal injuries in a three-car accident at MacPherson and Lincoln Lake roads in Vergennes Township.

The Grand Rapids Metropolitan YMCA honors seven West Michigan teenagers with the Teen Spirit, Mind and Body award.

Lowell's Ryan Phillips was among those seven. The award honors a teenager from each local YMCA branch who is community-minded and exemplifies the mission and core values of the YMCA.

The criteria used in selecting the recipients for the award include a level of community service, giving and involvement; involvement in

Review, cont'd pg. 15

Jesse VandenBosch, 11 Mrs. Pupel Cherry Creek Elem.

L&A RENT-ALL

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Cody Bunn, age 12 Mrs. Young Cherry Creek Elem.

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LOWELL • PH. 897-5977

Zachary Wheeler, age 10 Mr. Bredin Cherry Creek

Roger Chapman, Agency

217 W. Main, Lowell Office (616) 897-9237

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 14

extra-curricular school activities; displaying the core values of the YMCA; and exemplifying the YMCA mission.

February 7, 2001

Favorable results from a market research study on opportunities for a new Lowell area YMCA indicate the community has a strong interest in having the YMCA expand the programs and services it can offer the community.

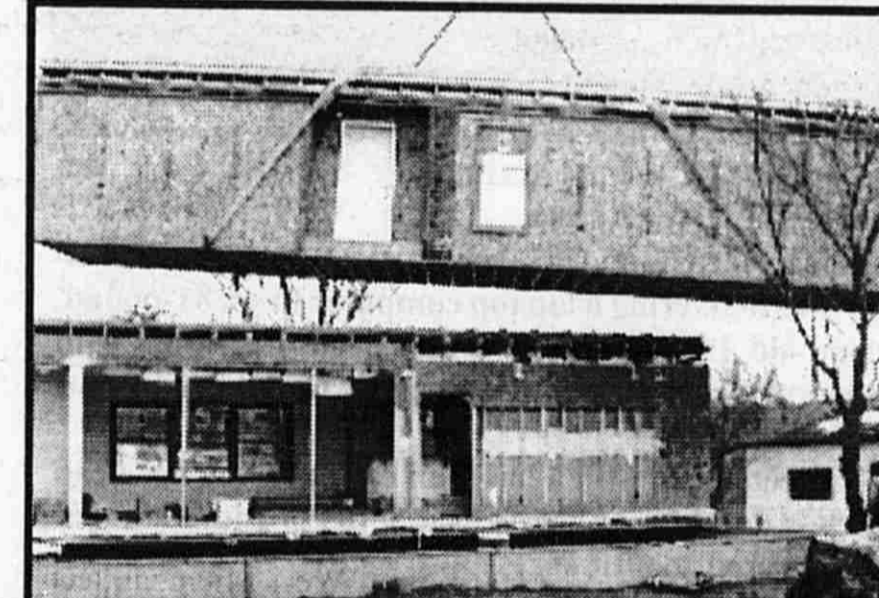
The Winfield Consulting Group, Inc., of Atlanta, GA, was contracted roughly three months ago by the Lowell YMCA to conduct the survey (400 area residents). The cost was \$30,000, half of which was funded through the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund.



A heavy December snow causes the roof of a barn owned by the Towers family in Fallsburg Historical Village to collapse. O.E. Bieri is hired to take down the entire barn with instructions to save the siding to be reused when a replica is created.

A cleanup party is scheduled to gather on Feb. 24 to sort out the wood that can be reused.

Fallsburg patrons may recall that the covered bridge was recreated back in 1995-96 using wood from the original bridge.



Sharon Whaley has been guided by the principle that people are basically good.

A stunning turn of events shook that belief to its foundation and then restored her faith in that basic principle.

Whaley paid \$101,000 upfront to R&D Loveless Builders of Rockford for a modular home to be delivered by Sept. 1.

In November, the contractor told Whaley that he put the money back into his business and that he had no money and no house for her.

Following a television news report and the help of many volunteers, Whaley's house is delivered on Feb. 2.



February 14, 2001

The chance of an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals, surrounding the final determination on which a wireless communication tower would be the first in the city of Lowell, was shot down by city attorney, Richard Wendt.

In a letter to city manager Dave Pasquale, he said the Zoning Board of Appeals Board lacks jurisdiction to hear such an appeal. However, an appeal could be taken to the circuit court.

The threat of an appeal by Todd Landman surfaces after the Lowell Planning Commission approved a Boves Road site for a special land use permit regarding the construction of telecommunication towers based primarily on the lessened impact for residences.

Street improvements are identified as a major priority by Lowell City Council.

In particular, the reconstruction of Gee Drive is listed as a top project in the streets master plan. The cost to carry out the work is estimated at \$810,196.

Within the last year, Gee Drive is reclassified as a major street under Public Act 51 by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

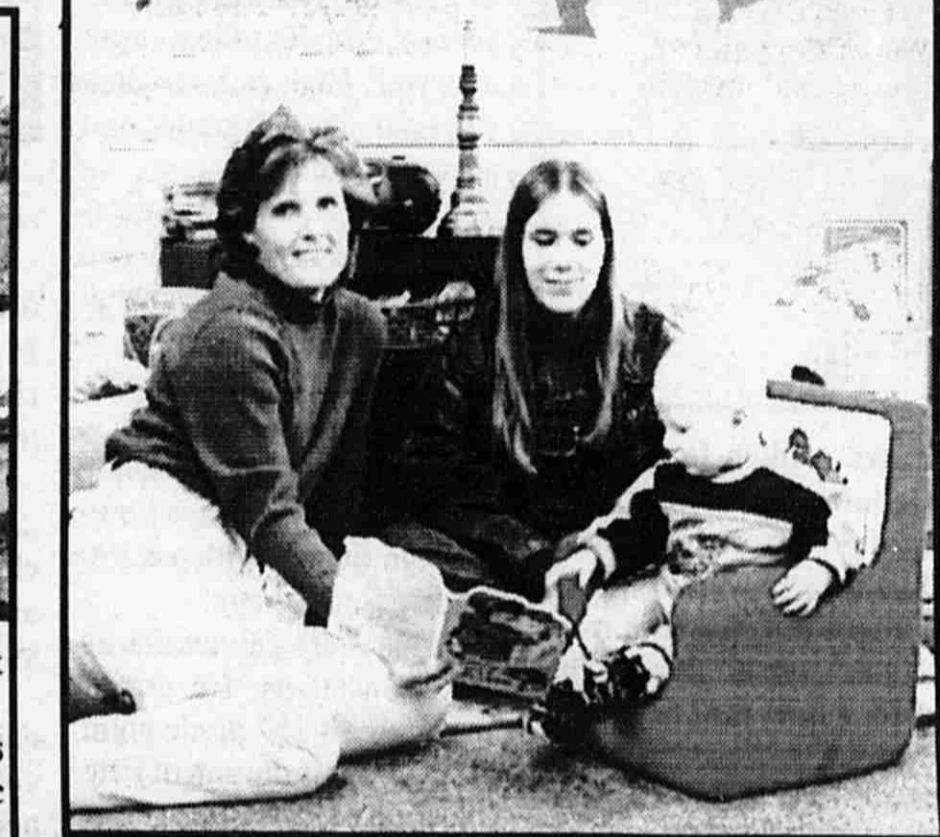
This reclassification increases the city's share of gas and weight tax revenues from \$235,000 to \$241,000.

Efforts are undertaken to classify Gee Drive as a rural major collector under the National Functional Classification System for federal funding.

Under this classification, the South Hudson Street

Dana Long, 13, does forehead loops around his competition to win the 2001 Michigan State Table Tennis Championship in Holly, Mich.

Long wins the 13- and under championship in three



Parents as Teachers is a springboard to better, brighter futures for children ages birth to three years.

"Studies show that this national program, with a researched-based education, makes a tremendous difference in a child's development," said Kathy Cole, a certified Parent as Teacher and supervisor to Lowell's first-year program. "Anyone can take advantage of this nationally recognized program. It's free."

Grant monies totaling \$13,000 were allocated last summer through the Lowell Area Community Fund (Englehardt) for the early learning initiative.

The funds pay to train Rhonda Delnick, the program coordinator.

Delnick visits the homes of 12-15 families once a month.

project qualified for 80 percent federal funding.

Many factors (e.g., economics, genetics, trauma) influence why some young people have successes in life and why others have a harder time.

They are not, however, the only factors that do influence.

Research completed by Search Institute has identified 40 concrete, positive experiences and qualities (developmental assets) that have influenced the lives of young people.

Rick Phillips, executive director of California-based Community Matters, presents the Asset Development model for youth development to Lowell community leaders.

Dana Long, 13, does forehead loops around his competition to win the 2001 Michigan State Table Tennis Championship in Holly, Mich.

Long wins the 13- and under championship in three

games 21-19, 15-21 and 21-16.

This is the third level in which Long has won the championship.

Is changing 43.2 acres of land established in a residential area to commercial in direct opposition to the Vergennes Township Comprehensive Plan and the results from a 1998 Community Opinion Survey Report?

That question went before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission Board at its February meeting.

John and Carol Lee, of 34 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE, outline six reasons why they believe Jim and Berdie Cook's request should be denied.



Tim Hill and brothers Eric and Dan Baird spend the winter season riding their snowmobiles.

It's fun and, more importantly, it gives their bodies time to heal from a bruising motor cross dirt bike season which ends in November.

All three youths spend every weekend from March to November racing their dirt bikes. The 2001 season begins in Coldwater on the first weekend in March.

lice chief, James Valentine, Robert James Watrous, 17, as a result of a preliminary exam, was bound over to circuit court on the aforementioned charges.

championship meet.

Friends, family and fans take a winter season's break for a little "Summer Dance" at the Lowell Performing Arts Center Saturday night.

Lowell High School graduate and former resident, Roger MacNaughton returns for his first formal performance, promoting and playing songs from his newly released CD "Summer Dances."

February 21, 2001

For the first time in 14 years, someone other than Keith Boeve will coach the Lowell boys track team.

Russ Stevens, a 1983 Grandville High School graduate and a third-year social studies teacher at Unity High School, is hired to lead the track program into the 2001 season.

A little spark ignites Lowell's high octane wrestling machine to district title.

Lowell defeats Forest Hills Northern 66-12 in the Division II District final. The Red Arrows reached the final with a convincing 44-15 win over Northview.

February 28, 2001

A change made in the Lowell Light and Power policies had Lowell City Council deciding whether it would put overhead or underground electric services to the city's Department of Public Works and Look Memorial Fire Station buildings located on South Hudson.

The city council, however, opted for the underground service in order to stay consistent with the goal of eliminating poles and cleaning up the view along the street.

A group of individuals are hoping to place a small blue tag on the historic lamp-posts in downtown Lowell to help mark a trail being put together by the group.

Paula Wilbur, the Lowell Area Trail coordinator for the Western Michigan Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, approaches Lowell City Council with a number of matters regarding the trail that will weave its way through Lowell connecting Fallsburg Park to the fairgrounds. One of those issues is signage, which includes placing a 2-by-6-inch blue blaze marker on some of downtown's historic lamp-posts.

The council decided to refer the matter to the Historic District for its opinion.

Participation, achievement, improvement, and results are the focal points of the state's new accountability based accreditation.

The framework of the new accreditation system calls for assessment of all students, academic achievement, adequate yearly progress, minimizing achievement gaps for gender and ethnicity, and school improvement.

When the system is fully in place, the state will fulfill its promise of identifying every public school building with an accreditation label.

The old Michigan Department of Education framework was broken down into three areas: summary accredited, interim accreditation and unaccredited.

The new framework has four labels: summary accredited being the highest, accredited with recognition status, accredited and unaccredited.

Krystal White's warm-up on the balance beam was a far cry from her performance in the O-K Rainbow Conference meet.

The sophomore scored a personal best 8.95 on her way to becoming the first Red Arrow to ever take a first in an O-K Rainbow Conference

Review, cont'd pg. 16

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 15

The district made a decision about the markers being placed on the buildings, but could only offer an opinion in regards to the poles.

A local church hopes to be the top bidder for a piece of property that the city of Lowell has put up for bid.

At the request of the Lowell Wesleyan Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, Lowell City Council decides to put up for sale a city-owned lot off of North Hudson Street. The lot is approximately 36 by 134.48 feet. The church made the request because its leaders would like to sell the property it owns next to the lot. The two parcels would be enough for two residential homes.

Church officials indicate that selling the land would also help the church pay off some existing debts.

The church-owned parcel is just under 14,039 square feet. This is about 2,400 square feet below the required 16,400 square feet needed to construct two single-family homes on the parcel. With the city-owned lot, which totals about 4,841 square feet, the property would be about 18,881 square feet. This would put the parcel within city guidelines.

The Lowell Light and Power plans to construct a new substation in the city of Lowell. The question is where it will be located.

The planning commission recommends to the Lowell City Council that the new substation be located west of the water treatment plant on Bowes Road... an almost opposite recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission, which agreed with Lowell Light and Power that the station should be located between the city's water treatment plant and the existing south substation on Bowes Road.

In less than 25 minutes, American Tower Company receives the approval it needs to proceed with construction on the city's first wireless communication tower.

The tower will be located at 2051 Bowes Road.

In a Division II Regional dominated by O-K conference champions, the Red Arrows (O-K White champions) were far superior in wins over O-K Gold champion, Wyoming Park and O-K Blue champion, Middleville.

Lowell took apart Wyoming Park (54-9) in the regional semifinal and then cruised past Middleville 53-10 in the regional final.

Local musical artists and their diverse styles of music will be showcased throughout a 10-week summer concert series on the Riverwalk Plaza.

The final piece to the summer concert puzzle is put in place when event coordinators, Lorain Smalligan, director of the Lowell Area

Arts Council, and Liz Baker, executive director of Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, learned that the event was allocated a \$5,000 grant from the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

The grant was one of 13 allocations, recommended by the fund's advisory committee, totaling \$146,730.

Lowell Rotary teams with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a Lowell family. The house will be constructed at 215 James St.



The addition of a second water tanker has nearly doubled Bowne Township Fire Department's capacity to fight a fire. The department will now arrive on the scene of a fire with approximately 11,000 gallons of water.

Bowne Township Fire Department purchased a used '83 truck and then installed a tank on it. It cost the department \$45,000 as opposed to a new tanker which runs from \$150-\$170,000.

The department raised the money over a five-six year period through its annual pancake suppers, donations and memorials.

Volunteer student trainer Teresa Leasure was presented with a varsity jacket by Lowell Athletic Boosters Club president, Perry Beachum at halftime of Friday's basketball game between Lowell and Zeeland.

Leasure was recognized for her 230 volunteer hours as a student trainer during the first semester at Lowell High School.

Lowell High School girls bowling team continues to roll



Lowell High School's driver education program was started in 1951 by Norm Borgerson Sr. and run by Bob Perry since 1964.

Some 37 years later, Perry, alongside Lowell Superintendent Bert Bleke, presented plaques to the Lowell Area Car Dealers (Thomet Chevrolet Buick; Vennen, Chrysler, Dodge; Wittenbach Pontiac and Oldsmobile; and Harold Zeigler Ford, for their cooperation and assistance. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Mike Poll (Wittenbach), Fred Willison (Vennen), Cody Meyer (Harold Zeigler Ford), Rod Dewey (Harold Zeigler Ford), Bob Perry, Bob Rodenhouse, Daryl Kuiper (Vennen), superintendent Bert Bleke and Stew Thomet (Thomet Chevrolet).

along, qualifying for its third straight state tournament.

The Red Arrow girls, bowling at Middleville Lanes, were the regional's high qualifier with a 2418 series. In the step ladder finals, Lowell lost to Wyoming Park 355-281.

Hudsonville was third behind Lowell and Wyoming Park.

March 7, 2001

A noise control ordinance established by Bowne Township insures late evenings are also quiet nights.

The ordinance states that

The ordinance is put together in conjunction with the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

From stints in the mail processing plant and the business mail entry department to acting postmaster and supervisor of customer service, Micki Snyder landed the position and the location she wanted.

"I always said I wanted to retire from this office (Alto Post Office)," explained Snyder, a lifelong Alto resident.

Snyder is sworn in as the Alto postmaster by former Lowell postmaster, Sylvia Taylor.

Snyder replaces Dennis Drotar, who leaves to take a labor position in Grand Rapids.

For the first time in 123 years, the top 10 students from a Lowell High School class will graduate with grade point averages over 4.0.

The first public presentation of the Class of 2001 Top 10 is announced at the annual Academic Dessert.

Kimberly Drougal is this year's valedictorian. She is the daughter of Ed and Sandy Drougal. She will leave Lowell High School with a 4.190 grade point average.

This year's salutatorian is Mike Gustafson. He graduates with a 4.167 grade point average. He is the son of Pete and Ginny Gustafson.

Before its Lowell store opens in late May, Meijer will have invested far more than capital into the 190,000 square foot building.

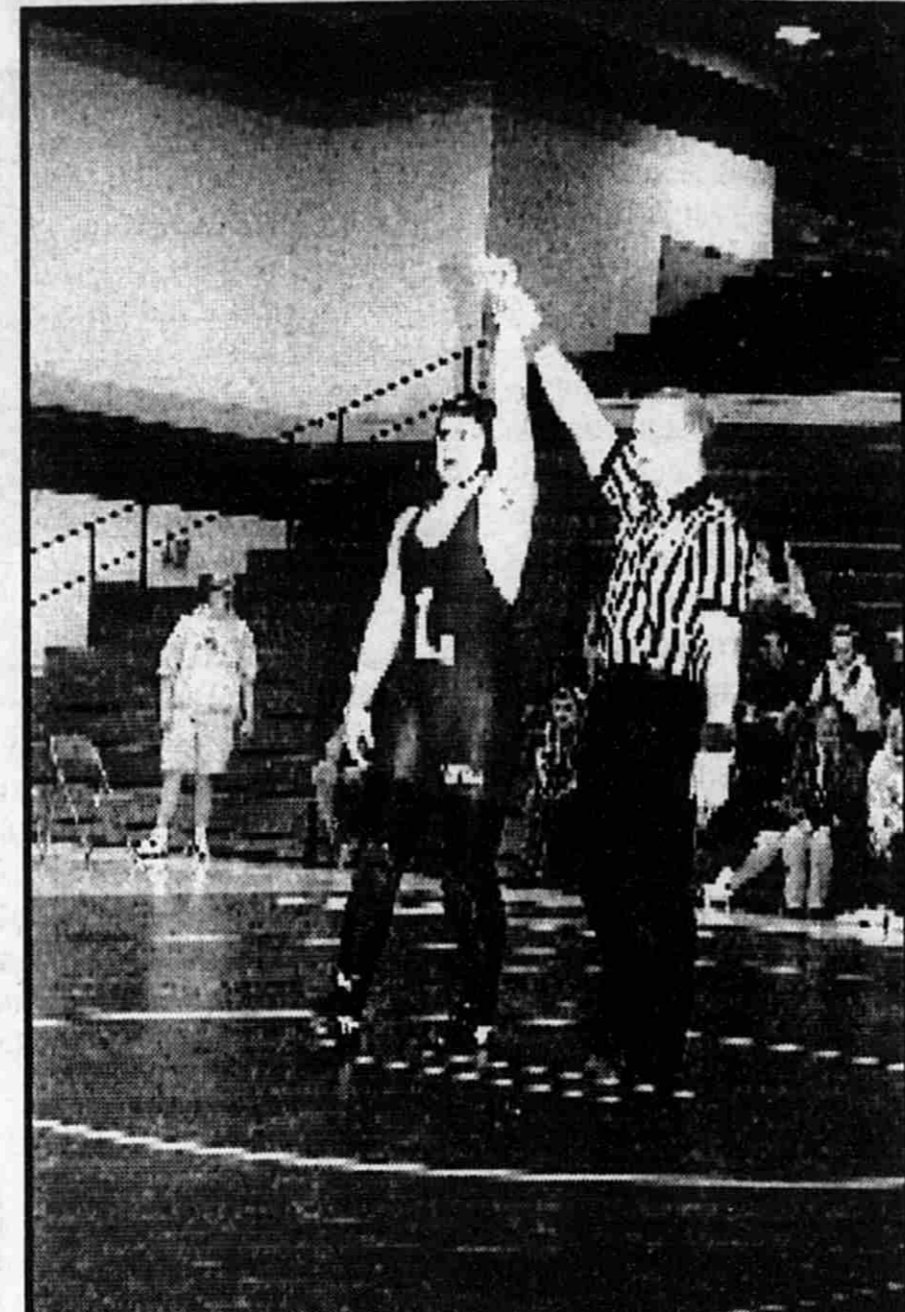
John Zimmerman, director of community and customer relations for Meijer, knows the importance of breaking through the paradigm/big box, more commonly referred to as a retailer.

Meijer doesn't want to be a retailer... it wants to be a neighbor. Over the last five years, Meijer has stepped up its efforts in this area.

The approach calls for creating a community team

it is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity to create or permit the continuance of any excessive, unnecessary loud noise which annoys or disturbs a reasonable person, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others within the township.

Based on a petition and phone calls received by the Bowne Township office, supervisor Pete Siler feels the drafting of the ordinance was warranted.



Lowell High School technology teacher, Kari Slot remembered it well.

In late December, the Make A Wish Foundation volunteer was delivering a lap top computer to an 81-pound, 11-year-old Lowell boy who had been diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a tumorous growth detected in his left sinus.

He greeted her with a baseball cap covering his head... hairless due to roughly eight months of radiation and chemotherapy, mouth sores (also caused by treatment) and with a braviac (catheter) in his chest covered by a sweatshirt.

"Make A Wish is not a last wish... it is intended to help children through a tough time," Slot reflects. Children to young adults (2-18), facing a life-threatening illness not necessarily terminal, are recommended by doctors, nurses, social workers, family and friends.

Slot admits that being a Make A Wish volunteer was tough emotionally. "It was tough because you'd watch the obituaries and would see the names of kids you'd visited."

But then there are the success stories... like that 11-year-old boy who Slot visited five years ago... he is a junior now walking the halls of Lowell High School.

Philip Moerdyke clinically is in his first year free of cancer after five years of remission. That distinction means he only goes in for a yearly checkup.

charged with identifying what elements are important to a community and which of those aspects Meijer is able to partner up with in the community.

It took a whole circle of prayers, money and volunteer labor to author the happy ending.

Sharon Whaley, without a house last November, moved into her new home earlier this week, bringing closure to a traumatic set of events.

The grand prize eludes the Lowell wrestling team again, in heart-rendering fashion at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

The Red Arrows finished



runner-up for the third consecutive year in the Division II state finals... including the last two years to Lapeer West.

March 14, 2001

The award-winning sound of the Michigan Tech Jazz Lab Band, featuring a

Review, cont'd. pg. 17

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 16

repertoire ranging from the big band era to today's contemporary sounds and original compositions, could be heard inside the walls of the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Lowell High School was one of 11 stops on the 22-member jazz band's spring break tour.

For Troy Ballard, a 1997 LHS graduate and tenor saxophonist for the jazz band, it was a return home.

"It's great to be back here playing. There's no better place," Ballard explained. "People don't realize how spoiled they are by this center."

Ballard knows... based on the number of gyms and cafeterias the jazz band has performed in.

Some students believe... some don't.

Either way the School Resource Officer program at Lowell High School began inauspiciously on the day there was a school shooting in California.

"This is Lowell. Not a whole lot goes on. I was fine before," said Lowell student, Zach Beachum.

Christie Lacic doesn't see a need for a resource officer... but for different reasons. "It's not a good idea. I don't feel safe now and I didn't feel

safe before. Who is going to feel comfortable talking to him... he's pulled half of us over. I don't think him being here will prevent anything... It's not like he'd throw himself on a bomb for us."

The Lowell program wasn't even a week old and school resource officer, Steve Bukala sensed that his presence was having an impact and that student rapport and trust had already begun to take form.

"Students have started to say 'hi' and 'good morning' to me. I also had a student stop and talk to me about hunting," said the officer.

Students are relating to the officer as a person... not as an officer, which is key to the program's success, according to Bukala.

Lowell swimmer Mike Gustafson completed an illustrious swimming career at the Class A swimming and diving championships.

The senior earned all-state honors finishing second in the 200 individual medley with a time of 1:53.59.

In addition to his state accomplishments, Gustafson concluded his high school career with eight consecutive O-K White conference championships.

The sophomore gymnastics duo of Holly Plattner and Krystal White put aside the butterflies and that sickly feeling in the pit of the stomach to compete in the Division II individual state tournament.

Plattner, coming off a first-place performance at the regional, posted a 9.225, placing her fourth among the 42 Division II gymnasts competing in the floor exercise.

White tallied an 8.9. Lowell's Ian DeRath glowed in the aftermath of a state championship following his 6-4 decision over Fenton's Lambros Kottalis.

Caleb O'Boyle, Brandon Kinney and Bobby Gingerich placed second while John McKay was third and Ben Fleet placed fourth.

Lowell Area Schools receives good news: Its first phase for a \$29 million bond proposal came in \$60,000 under budget.

Jim White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, reported to the board of education that bids for 12 different categories went out to Alto Elementary School, Lowell Middle School, and Unity High School projects.

The Tots on Track for Success program at Lowell Area Schools receives the gift of a Macintosh computer from a Lowell resident Terry Kropf donated the computer and equipment, valued at \$400, to the program, which is designed as an outreach program for young families with children, ages infant through preschool.

Superintendent Bert Bleke said the program has



Lowell High School undertakes its biggest musical production with its opening of 'The Wizard of Oz'. It required 52 actors/actresses, a backstage crew of 12, a 20-member pit band, 92 handmade costumes and two-and-a-half months of practice.

become a model that can and should be for our county and maybe in the state.

March 21, 2001

City and business dignitaries gathered to celebrate the preservation and renovation of a historic building which was architecturally designed in 1870 by Robert Graham.

Since then, the building has been many things to many people, most notably a hardware store (Western Auto) and grocery stores owned by Bob Hahn and Carl Monroe. Two years ago it looked like a building ready to be razed/demolished and then Mark Batchelor purchased the building and spent the last year restoring the building.

"It was like someone dropped a mason from the sky," said Jim Doyle, presi-

Time spent on the job was

dent of Lowell Area Historic District in reference to Mark Batchelor, Lowell Township resident and planning commissioner.

Batchelor wasn't just a mason - he was a mason with an appreciation for the building's architectural history and significance.

After a lot of blood, sweat and capital to fund such a renovation project, Batchelor "has brought together the his-

justification enough for the Bowne Township Board to vote elected officials' wage increases for the first time in three years.

"This increase makes the township wages more equitable with other townships," said township supervisor, Pete Siler.

Bowne Township's board, by a vote of 4-1, approved an annual \$2,000 increase in the supervisor, clerk and treasurer's salaries.

Bowne Township trustee Karen Hendrick's weekend ride into Garfield Township may have uncovered a solution to the township's office dilemma.

A report to Bowne Township in February identified that its offices contained fungus, toxins and spores. The result was relocating to the Historic Township Hall at 84th St. and M-50 or risk health problems.

Bowne Township supervisor, Pete Siler shared six options with the board stating none of them, presented by Owen, Ames and Kimball, are cheap - bringing it back to square one... how does the township pay for it?

Hendrick took pictures of a new township hall built near an existing historic hall in Garfield Township. "They use the old hall for meetings and storage," Hendrick said. "The new hall is used for office space."

Review, cont'd. pg. 18

Wishing You and Yours the Happiest and Healthiest of Holiday Seasons!

Peace on Earth

Delnay Morris, age 10
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek Elem.

Cody Grim, age 11
Mrs. Melle
Cherry Creek

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Flynn Hoag, age 11
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Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 17

The cost for the 2,200-square foot building was \$150,000... a lot more affordable than the other options.

Lowell's three state titles at the ninth annual Michigan High School Powerlifting state finals matched the total number it has gained over the past five years.

Winning state titles for Lowell were Chris Curtis, 155 pounds, combined (squat, bench and deadlift) lift of 1,105 pounds; Brad Eldridge, 181, 1,250 pounds; Travis DeVoid, 242, 1,350 pounds.

The Lowell Wesleyan Church got what it wanted - a small piece of city-owned property on N. Hudson, at what some might consider quite the deal.

The property, appraised at \$1,300 by city assessor, Jim Marfia, was sold to the church for \$500.

Actually, the church approached the city about the parcel (about 135 feet.) Church members' goal was to add the piece to the land it already owned adjacent to the property. This will



allow the church to sell its land and pay off some existing debt.

The Lowell Youth Football program has a home for at least another five years. Following a unanimous

vote, Lowell City Council agreed to allow the youth football program to continue operating and controlling the concession stand and Burch Field facilities.

Mike Meppelink, president, said the program has been doing well, operating eight to nine football games on Saturdays, and adding about 60 children annually to its rosters. Also, the organization has worked with other local groups which have wanted to use the field, including the fair and YMCA.

The city of Lowell employees will finally get their study on city employee salaries.

City manager, David Pasquale presented a report and fees for the Michigan Municipal League to conduct a study on employee classification and compensation. Pasquale noted the city had not done this since 1993 and had added several job classifications.

City Council, however, was disappointed to learn the proposed study, which came in at \$7,500 plus \$600 in out-of-pocket expenses, would not include employees at Lowell Light and Power/Cable Company because the companies had already had a similar study done recently.

After some discussion, it was decided to make a change on the motion so Pasquale could go back and get a quote from Michigan Municipal League to incorporate the study for Lowell Light and Power/Cable Company into this study.

Formerly known as Rite Aid, of 411 E. Main, developer Joe Nawrocki (413 E. Main Street Investments LLC) will begin renovation mid summer on the former Rite Aid building.

Nawrocki went before Lowell Planning Commission requesting permission to legally split the parcel so two owners and uses can occupy the overall structure.

As a result of the split, the user groups that will most likely exist in these two resources will be different. The two-story resource will become a mercantile user, while the one-story will become retail and storage.

The two-story resource will be sold separately and will offer 4,280 square feet on the main level and 3,260 square feet on the second level. The single story will be approximately 9,030 square feet.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 18

A steady crowd of patrons visited the booths of 98 vendors at the fifth annual Lowell Community Expo.

This year's Expo was sponsored by Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Area Schools and Ionia County National Bank.

The Kent County 4-H Performing Arts Club raised over \$1,300 through its annual major community service project. This year's performance was "Radio Station K.I.D.S."

Proceeds from the event went to the Ronald McDonald House and children's programming at the Van Andel Museum.

With verbal approval from the Lowell Historic Commission and the city of Lowell, it appears by summer's end the historical characteristics of an existing two story resource on the east end of town will be brought back to life.

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April 4, 2001

Lowell High School brought in Steve Peters, artist-in-residence at Franciscan Life Process Center. It was done through a collaborative effort with the Lowell Area Arts Council. He guided 20-25 art and drama students through a fall semester artist-in-residence program.

The result of their work is unveiled at a sculpture dedication and reception.

Peters worked with students on individual pieces and on a collaborative piece, which required refining many ideas down to one.

It was difficult, but the students did eventually organize all their different ideas into one.

The sculpture, which sits outside the high school's west entrance, was designed with the rights-of-passage idea in mind.

Lowell Masonic Lodge #90 is building a new image. "For so many years, the Masons were thought of as a secret society; we're trying to change that," said David Miller, a mason for the past 55 years. "Being a Mason means a lot to me. I've enjoyed the fellowship and the high caliber people I've met."



Howard Burton has never been on a turkey hunt, but he's not without a story.

In fact, his story rivals most. Burton, a Lowell bus driver for three years, was making a daily run to Hope Network to pick up some students.

He was heading west on M-21 near the Ada Roadside Park at Sargent when he saw a turkey running out of some brush toward the road.

"I thought he was going to get hit by an eastbound car, but just before he reached the road, the turkey took flight," Burton explains... took flight right into the path of Burton's bus. "There wasn't anything I could do. He hit and came through my windshield right onto my lap."

The glass from the shattered windshield and a flopping, kicking turkey scratched the left side of Burton's face.

Traveling at a speed of 45-50 miles per hour, with his vision impaired by the turkey, Burton still managed to maintain control of the bus and steer it off the north side of the road.

Miller and his fellow Masons have volunteered their services in building 37 single raised-bed areas for the Wittenbach Community Garden Center, which has been coordinated by Raquel Clark and Wittenbach Science Center director, Tammy DeBaar.

The construction of these raised-bed areas is expected to begin mid-to-late-April. The Masons are looking to be viewed as a force for good in the Lowell community.

Lowell's push for a city light at Monroe is met with equal resistance by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The city's push has been based on improved public safety. "The city believes a light will break up traffic and make it

easier for pedestrians to cross Main Street (M-21).

The reluctance stems from M-21 being a major state thoroughfare and traffic counts not warranting a light.

If history is to be a teacher, improvements to Gee Drive may eventually be funded through special assessments.

When the city made street improvements throughout the whole town 25 years ago, special assessment was the funding source.

That may be the route the city uses in deciding how to fund the \$810, 196 price tag to upgrade Gee Drive.

Other methods brought up during discussion at a planning commission meeting were an increase in city millage and seeking federal funding.

It is the largest mineral in southern Lowell Township and possibly the most recognized landmark.

Ye Old Kissing Rock is given a make-over by township residents Jim Marron and Fred Talbot.

The rock which has been victim of numerous spray can creations was recently covered in a pearl gray with black lettering in hopes of cleaning its besmudged appearance.



Donations totaling \$3,500 by American Legion Post 152 and VFW Post 8302 helped bring the amount raised toward a truck for the Lowell Area Schools' D.A.R.E. program to just under \$6,000. Mike Willard, commander of the American Legion Post 152, left, and Gordon Marshall, commander of VFW Post 8302, right, made check presentations to D.A.R.E. officer Steve Bukala. The American Legion made a donation of \$2,500 and the VFW, a check for \$1,000. The D.A.R.E. program needs \$8,900 to fund a three-year lease. At the end of the three years, D.A.R.E. will purchase the black GMC Sonoma outright. The truck will be adorned with a red D.A.R.E. logo and the names of sponsors who made donations of \$500 or more.

Review, cont'd pg. 20

Ellie Timpson, age 10
Mrs. Reed
Cherry Creek Elem.

LOWELL VISION CENTER
David G. Durkee, O.D.
2186 W. Main St., Lowell • 897-8486

Jeremy Drake, age 11
Mrs. Melle
Cherry Creek Elem.

Connie Reedy 897-4915 • Office 897-0444

REEDY REALTY, INC.

North Country Trail will cover seven states and over 4,000 miles when completed. It moves into its new digs at 219 E. Main St. A newly renovated historical Robert Graham-designed building. The renovation work was completed by Mark Batchelor.

March 28, 2001

Construction of the Conservatory Woods condo site is expected to begin in early May.

According to developer Steve Hanson's site plan, a total of 54 condominiums will be put on the property - less than half the allowable density, which could hold up to 126 units.

Only eight acres of the 18-acre site will be developed because much of the land is restricted by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Conservatory Woods will conserve a vast majority of natural features of the site. There will be a large wetland area in the middle, and as many trees as possible will be maintained.

Lowell Area Schools' April state aid check will have a little extra in it.

The additional dollars, though, are earmarked as part of the Governor's Teacher Technology Initiative (TTI) program. The funds will purchase computers for teachers.

To qualify, teachers had to fill out a survey prior to Jan. 19 and comply with all conditions and terms set forth by TTI.

Of Lowell's teaching staff, 202 of the 203 qualified; one teacher did not participate. There were 41 non full-time teachers who did not qualify.

It's been 54 years since Lowell Schools has had a string orchestra.

A group called the Lowell String Player Advocates, with the support of community education, began a movement nearly a year-and-a-half ago in pursuit of re-establishing a string orchestra program.

The group is one of a multitude of wish-list requests, hoping to be added to the school district's 2001-02 budget.

Those wish-list requests total nearly \$1 million. According to Connie Gillette, assistant superintendent to finance and personnel, however, the district will add no more than \$200,000 to its budget next year. "They will all be things that the district needs, classroom related, and the programs that impact the most students."

Lowell's Randy Seaman, president/CEO of Seam's Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Inc., is named the 33rd recipient of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America.

The Contractor of the Year award honors contractors who have dedicated themselves to improving professional standards for themselves, their companies and their industry.

Lance Fargo, age 10
Mrs. Melle
Cherry Creek Elem.

Merry Christmas

Auto-Owners Insurance
The No Problem People

Speerstra Agency
Dale Triplett
835 W. Main St. 897-9259

L.A. TRIM
LOWELL, MICHIGAN
897-6546

Laura Blanton, age 11
Mrs. Schneider
Alto

Torsten Boss, age 10
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elem.

Kathy Fyan, age 10
Mrs. Pupel
Cherry Creek Elem.

Lowell Light & Power
127 N. Broadway
897-8402

Lowell Cable
127 N. Broadway
897-8405

Let it snow!

MARTIN VREDENBURG, DDS
1150 N. HUDSON
897-8429

Review, cont'd pg. 19

Lowell Masonic Lodge #90 is building a new image. "For so many years, the Masons were thought of as a secret society; we're trying to change that," said David Miller, a mason for the past 55 years. "Being a Mason means a lot to me. I've enjoyed the fellowship and the high caliber people I've met."

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Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 19

April 11, 2001

Lowell's first "Spirit of Community Annual Celebration" is established to recognize leadership in the areas of education, arts and community service.

Awards scheduled to be presented are the Ray Quada Opportunity Scholarship, Tribute Brass Leaf Dedication, Marsha Wilcox Community Service Award, Lowell Area Arts Council's Arty Award and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Award.

The celebration is inspired by the life of Ray Quada, a longtime Lowell resident who gave countless years toward the enrichment of the Lowell area through his volunteerism and government service.

For the seventh time in nine years, Lowell High School's Model U.N. team earns the highest number of awards at Hope College's 26th annual Model U.N. competition.

Lowell students earn 13 awards, one shy of a record it set last year when it won 14 awards.

More than 800 students from schools across four states participated.

Sixty-two skaters started the 4th annual 24-hour Skate-a-Thon at Roll Away Family Fun Center.

When 18 of them had finished, over \$5,000 had been raised in the fight against muscular dystrophy.

The event ran from 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 31 until 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 1. Participants were allowed a 10-minute break each hour.

The center provided the

rink, music, bottled water, pop and fruit.

At one time the Lowell Airport had the classification of a General Utility airport, but some time in the past it was demoted to a basic status.

But the Lowell Airport Board is working to change all that and with the approval of the Lowell City Council, took the first step in improving its status.

The airport board approved Grand Rapids-based URS Greiner to be the airport's engineer in helping to determine what the airport needs to do to become a General Utility airport. Three companies had bid on the project and through extensive interviewing, the board selected URS.

Bell Equipment Company is approved by the city council to assemble and attach a new water tank and hopper for the city's street sweeper.

Dan DesJarden, Lowell Public Works director, said Bell estimated it would take about 40 hours to install the new equipment and that DPW employees should start sweeping the city streets some time between the middle and end of April.

Noting that North Kent Transit is definitely used by its residents, the Lowell City Council voted unanimously to raise its contribution by \$2,000 to the organization.

Since coming to the area, the city of Lowell along with Lowell and Vergennes townships, have helped fund North Kent Transit through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The city of Lowell contributed \$4,000 for the 2000/2001 fiscal year.

Tom Tilma, of the Kent County Community Development Department, who oversees the North Kent Transit program, indicated that by the end of February, the program had used monies in the amount of \$3,731.96 and would need about \$5,600 to continue for the year. He recommended an increase to \$6,000.

April 18, 2001



Kristi Ford, a 14-year dance student, took her talents to the air in the season-opening track meet against Hastings.

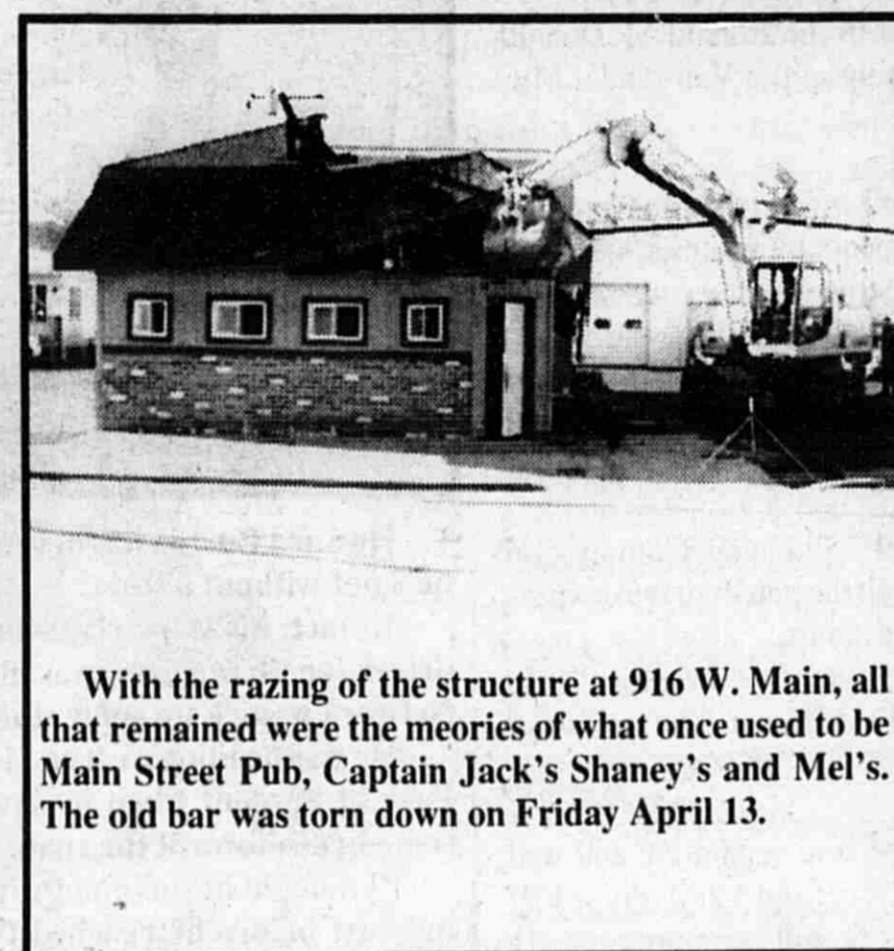
The senior hopped and glided to the high bar before elevating up and over the setting of 5'6-1/4", and with it set a new school record in the high jump. The previous record, owned by Leslie Murphy (5'5"), was set in 1994.

Soon Lowell area residents will be able to use the Englehardt Library computers to view images and objects millions of miles away.

Due to a \$28,850 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund, the Veen Observatory will be able to up-

grade one of its towers. With the upgrade it will be fully robotic and very high tech.

The remote system will control the east dome, telescope and cameras. When completed, the classrooms



With the razing of the structure at 916 W. Main, all that remained were the meories of what once used to be Main Street Pub, Captain Jack's Shaney's and Mel's. The old bar was torn down on Friday April 13.

and the library will have internet access to the telescope and stored data from the observatory.

April 25, 2001

The thought of playing soccer for a Division I program goes from tempting to truth for Lowell's Jacob Billingsley.

The Red Arrow goalie, who garnered just about all the post-season awards possible following a stellar senior season in the net, is signed to a four-year soccer scholarship to play at Eastern Illinois where he will study computer

information systems.

Fearful that her driveway would not be able to hold it, Doria West attained permission to expand her 3rd annual "plant swap" onto city property.

West, of 525 Front St.,



Last year the Alto Running Club began its long journey around the world a quarter mile at a time.

In March they picked up where they left off, somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

So far this year, kids have run a combined 2,655 miles.

The Alto Running Club, in its third year, was borne using the same process as the Old Kent Junior Club.

Club directors Susan Riddle, Sharon Vensas and Terri Lyman have all been amazed by the response to the club. They expected 20 kids to start and have ended up with 150 active runners. Some students have averaged 50-100 miles (running/walking) per year.

public, with the homes facing the private drive.

Three bid irregularities and inexperience in construction of new streets and sidewalks sway the Lowell City Council not to accept the lowest bid in the reconstruction of Bowes Road and sidewalk construction.

The city council, instead, approves the bid of CL Trucking and Excavating in the

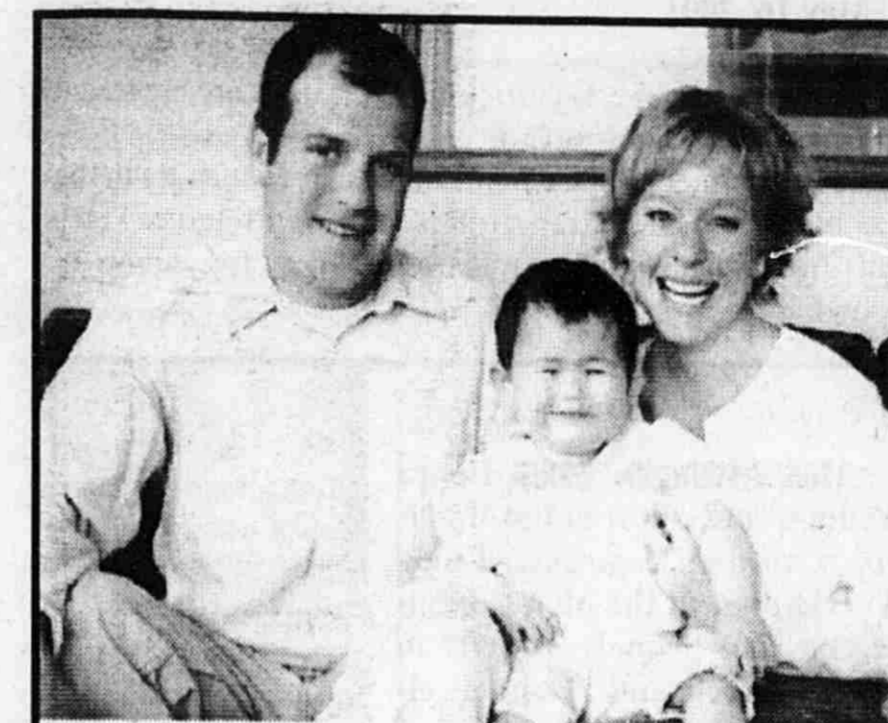
Review, cont'd. pg. 21

received permission from Lowell City Council to use city property at the corner of Jackson and Front streets, enabling her to expand her plant swap.

Dave Anderson became the latest to go before the city council requesting a sidewalk waiver ... only to be denied.

Anderson's request is based on the following facts: that the four lots in question are on a private drive off of Godfrey Street; that Godfrey does not have any sidewalks from the corner of Lincoln Lake to his property; and that his drive is private, not pub-

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 20



As the United States government was shaping a deal with China to free the 24 American crew members from the downed Navy EP-3E reconnaissance plane, a deal of a different nature was being finalized which would free 11-month-old Yi Hong from an orphanage in the Province of Anhui, China.

Ironically, this freedom was also being sought by Americans ... Lowell's Scott and Susan Ullery.

They began their parental journey two years ago, checking and searching for good, reliable agencies from which they could adopt a child.

Once the paperwork was completed, the Ullerys learned they were approved and that it would be six months before they could travel to China to pick up their child.

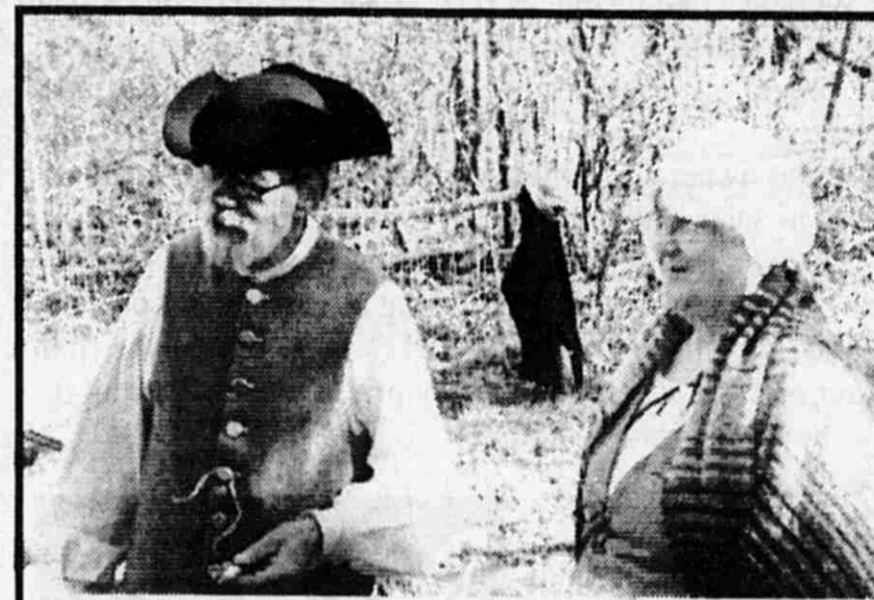
amount of \$165,337, 3.9 percent higher than that of low bidder, DMC Inc. (\$159,142.65).

For the fifth time in 14 years, Lowell High School will search for a varsity basketball coach.

Pete Bush, Red Arrow basketball coach for the last six years, resigned from the position last week.

May 2, 2001

Michigan Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus speaks to Lowell Rotary about the changes that have taken place in Michigan in the '80s and '90s and about the needs he sees for the future.



Sara Blanchard's fourth-grade class at Alto Elementary takes a step back into Michigan history at the Wittenbach Environmental/Agricultural Center.

How different their lives are today compared to Michigan's early settlers was reinforced.

Former Lowell eighth-grade science teacher George Stegmier and his wife Floretta, attired as early settlers, speak of the relationships between the Ottawa Indians, the French and the English.

The first Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence concludes with a graduation celebration on Thursday, April 19. The six-month program provided participants with tools, assuring them continued growth in leadership and volunteerism in the Lowell community.

The program was coordinated through Lowell's Leadership Initiative group and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

The dilemma: To encourage people to buy old homes and remodel them to improve the community ... yet have those projects fit the city's criteria.

Faced with the recurring issue of remodeling older homes built well before the current zoning ordinance, the situation of how to accommodate both the homeowners and city guidelines is getting, well, a little hairy.

"A lot of these homes were built small and now people want to have more room," said Lowell city manager, David Pasquale. "We don't want to discourage them from making improvements."

With the North Country Trail and the improvements with the city, the Lowell Planning Commission looks at the development of an RV park.

The park, proposed by Lowell Planning Commission chair, James Hall, would be located on the city-owned property adjacent to the Flat and Grand rivers. The plan would utilize the Moose, Rogers, and Flat River island properties, with bridges connecting to the islands.

Believing the project deserves investigation, the plan

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Miranda Grimm, age 11
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek Elem.

Hooper Printing
(616) 897-6719
FAX (616) 897-6460
2125 Bowes Rd.
Lowell, MI 49331

Matt Strawser, age 11
Mrs. Pupel
Cherry Creek Elem.

SPRINGGROVE
VARIETY
123 W. MAIN • LOWELL, MI 49331
897-9918

Kylee Karas, age 11
Mr. Fillman
Chery Creek

Lowell Granite Co.
306 E. Main, Lowell • 897-7191

Happy greetings

Logan Wolfe, age 11
Mrs. Schneider
Alto

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
10381 Bailey Drive
Lowell, MI

Thomas Jeffrey, age 10
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elem.

ICNB 897-6171
Hometown Banking
MEMBER FDIC

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 21

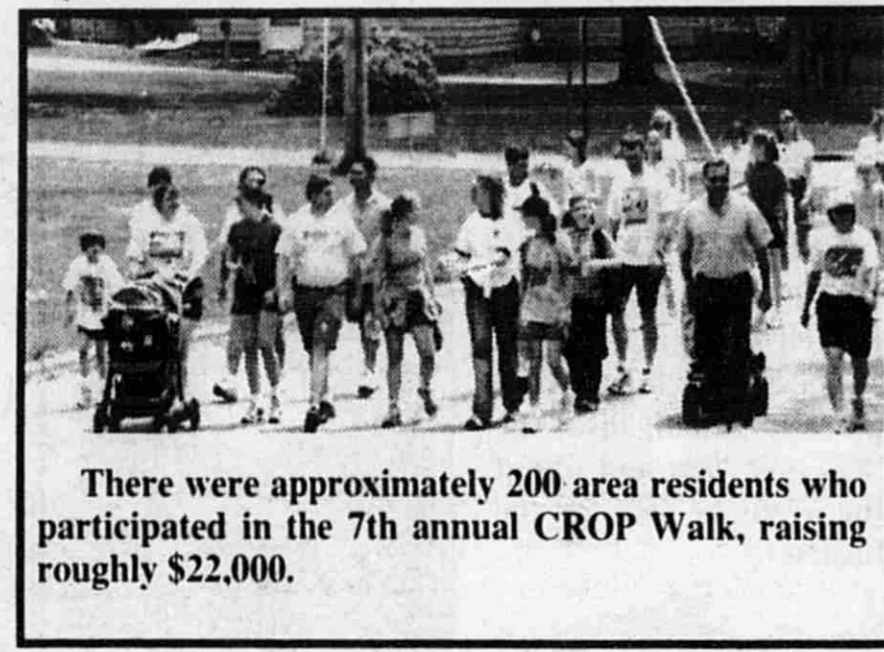
ning commission unanimously endorsed the property, which means that no development of the land will be considered for three years, while Hall is looking into the possible development of an RV park.

Hall said one of his first moves will be developing a marketing study to see whether the park would be utilized, and what would be necessary to attract the motorhome and converted coach (highway buses that have been converted into motorhomes) crowd to the park. He also plans to offer an area for tenters.

May 9, 2001



The first annual Spirit of Community celebration honors Bert Bleke as Lowell Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year; Liz Baker with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce "Arty" Award; Jane Bossert with the Marsha Wilcox Community Service Award; and Lyndsey Geer with the Ray Quada Opportunity Scholarship; the following people were recognized with Lowell Area Education Foundation tribute leaves: Noel Dean and the football coaching staff; the late Art Bieri; the late Jack Fonger; the late Jeff and Suzanne Timpson; the late Ray Quada, Bob Perry, Bob Copeland and John Timpson.



There were approximately 200 area residents who participated in the 7th annual CROP Walk, raising roughly \$22,000.

While the first quarter of 2001 saw residential home sales drop statewide by almost seven percent compared to the same time period last year, home sales in Lowell were up nine percent.

Home ownership continues to be a good investment in Lowell as sales and home values continue to rise.

The average price of a home in Lowell sold for \$137,161 during the first quarter of 2001. That reflected a 6.3 percent increase over the average price (\$129,066) during the first quarter of 2000. The average sales price in Lowell for all of 2000, however, was \$148,300.

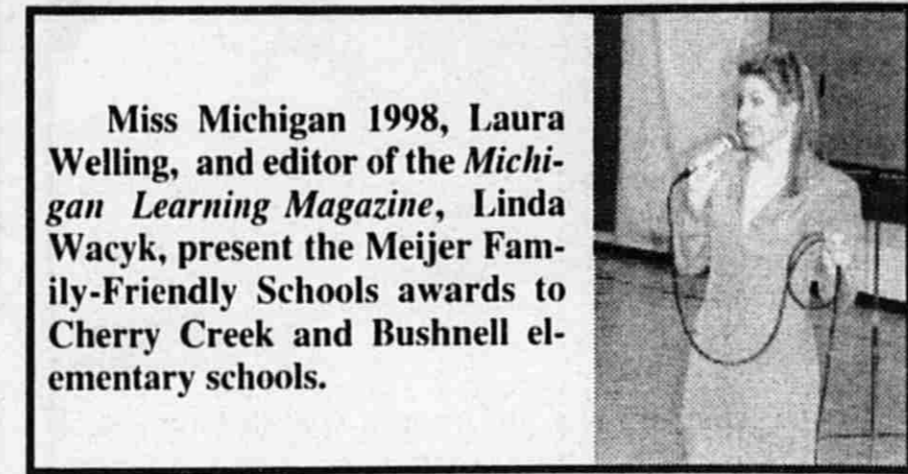
Former agriscience educator and Future Farmers of America advisor, Pete Siler taught more than 10,000 students during his 26-year tenure at Lowell High School. For his efforts in educating students about agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) named Siler the 2000 Agriscience Educator of the Year.

In his continual drive to impact students, Siler donates the \$500 award he received from MFB to the Wittenbach Center.

May 16, 2001

The K-12 visual arts curriculum revisions are approved by the Lowell School Board.

The most important elements of those revisions are in the areas of assessment and portfolios which will garner comments from students and teachers, and allow for parents to respond.



Miss Michigan 1998, Laura Welling, and editor of the Michigan Learning Magazine, Linda Wacyk, present the Meijer Family-Friendly Schools awards to Cherry Creek and Bushnell elementary schools.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) followed the lead of the Lowell Planning Commission, approving the recommended variances for two residential lots at 924 N. Hudson and 504 Lincoln Lake Ave.

Andy Retberg, YMCA community development director, is recognized as the Rookie Director of the Year by the National Association of Professional Directors for the YMCA.

A random unannounced search for drugs and weapons at Lowell High School results in less than a handful of suspensions.

Roughly 600 cars in the high school parking lots are searched by dogs trained to detect such items. The two dogs identified 44 cars of possibly having illegal substances or weapons in them; only four had illegal drugs or alcohol.

The rest of the vehicles are described as residual hits, such as prescription medicine, empty shotgun shells (used for hunting), bottled rockets, fire rockets, road flares and spills from empty beer can returnables.

The Red Arrow girls league meet championship, combined with its dual meet season title, gives Lowell its first league title in girls track since 1992. **Review, cont'd, pg. 23**

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 22

May 23, 2001

Lowell's first-ever Great Strides walk in the fight against cystic fibrosis had a most auspicious start.

There were 28 participants who walked the 6.2 miles. More impressively, they raised \$17,878.

The event, which was coordinated by Lowell's Pete Odland, started and finished at the Lowell Calvary Christian Reformed Church.

Odland raised \$9,100. His son Dillon suffers from the debilitating disease.

The money raised will be used to find a cure for cystic fibrosis.



The magical island world of orphaned dogs and cats imparted "Life's little lessons" to Cherry Creek Elementary third-graders.

The mythical Paw Island was accessed through a mobile classroom, complete with 27 iMac computers in a child-oriented environment.

Stories are character-based, instructing students about the importance of following the rules to stay safe, telling the truth and embracing diversity.

On this island, all the dogs and cats have responsibilities, which they perform daily. They also teach the younger cats and dogs the difference between right and wrong.

Sounds of music will once again filter out from the Lowell Showboat deck this summer.

Through the cooperative organizational efforts of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lowell Area Arts Council, the venue synonymous with summertime entertainment will play host to a 10-week summer concert series beginning May 31.

Results from the Lowell Area School District fourth-grade MEAP tests in reading and math appear to be pretty good.

From the data presented, a 17-point spike in the information part of the reading test stands out. Last year, only 68 percent of the fourth-graders passed the information part of the reading test. This year that jumped to 85.1 percent.

Jim White, assistant superintendent to curriculum, did note that Lowell's fourth-grade reading results were notably different in that nearly the same number of students passed both the story (86.0) and information (85.1) portions of the reading test. "I don't think I've ever seen that," White said.

This came in a year where the information reading material was new (had not been used in a previous year). When new reading material is used, the percentage of students who pass usually drops.

The percentage of fourth-graders who passed both portions of the test was 78.3 percent, up from the 64 percent figure of a year ago. It is a little better than the 1998 (72.6) and 1999 (71.8) results.

The strong performance trend in math continued. Of the fourth-grade students taking the MEAP math test, 90.2 percent passed, up from 86 percent a year ago.

ground includes two years as an assistant basketball coach at Alpena Community College; four years as junior varsity basketball coach at Burton-Bendle; and one year as freshman basketball coach at Corunna.

McDonald coached the Lowell junior varsity team to a 9-10 record in 2000-01.

He replaces Pete Bush as the varsity basketball coach in 2001-02. Bush resigned after a six-year tenure where his teams went a combined 21-107.

Jacquelyn Liversedge's plea to Lowell Charter Township Board fell on deaf ears.

The township board upheld the planning commission's recommendation to deny her request of changing 56 acres at 1408 Parnell Ave. from R-1 (low density residential) to R-2 (medium density residential).

Liversedge noted that the 1995 master plan called for the area in question to be changed to R-2.

The planning commission stated that the terrain made the area unlikely that it will be served by public sewer, increasing the possibility of adverse effects on the well water of surrounding residences.

It also explained that increased residential density does not fit the general character of the area.

For Diane Denman, a 25-year Meijer veteran, it was her first grand opening.

"There's a charge and excitement with opening a new store," she explained.

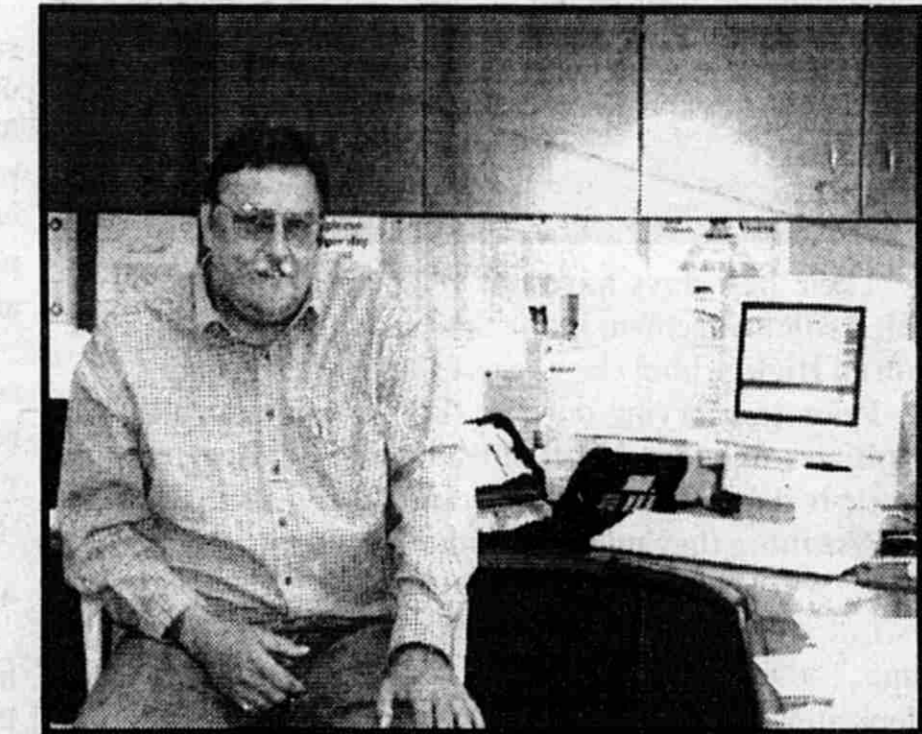
The excitement Denman felt before the doors opened at 7 a.m. on Sunday were magnified throughout the day as 5,643 patrons gave the new Meijer store its first glance from the inside.

"The numbers are better than the Meijer store which opened in Battle Creek at the same time," said Lowell store manager, Scott Rogers.

While the numbers at Lowell were termed as excellent, Rogers said the anticipated drop in numbers at the Cascade and Knapp stores did not materialize. "What that means is the Lowell store pulled in additional guests that haven't been shopping at Meijer," he explained.

Lowell store numbers enjoyed by Meijer on Sunday are expected to drop a little after the first month. "The real test is a year from now. Then we will know how many customers we have collected," Rogers said. "We're just glad to be open and very happy with the excellent sales we enjoyed on Sunday."

May 30, 2001



Mark Weber's long and illustrious tenure with Lowell Schools will end June 22 when he retires from the Lowell School District after 33 years.

One of Grand Rapids' biggest and best blues performers will open the Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series.

Jimmy Stagger brings his unique vocal phrasing and consistently progressive musicianship along with his newly released CD "The Triumphant Return of Slim Jim."

In a contract agreement between the city and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the city council states that no alcohol shall be served, sold, possessed or consumed on the Showboat.

Liz Baker, Chamber director, approached the council about removing that clause; the council did so after discovering it didn't make a difference if the clause were there or not. The reason being that as pointed out by Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine, the city already has an ordinance that forbids the consumption of alcohol in a public place.

"Since the Showboat is owned by the city, it would be considered a public facility," Valentine said, adding that his officers would have to follow the ordinance.

A new agreement with Lowell Light and Power has the city treasurer reworking its city budget.

According to the current city charter, the city does not charge Lowell Light and Power taxes and, in return, receives its electrical services for free. However, councilmember Dan Brubaker said for accountability purposes, the two organizations needed to come up with a better system.

Under the old system, the city was simply credited for what it used, which made planning for future use difficult and also made it difficult for Lowell Light and Power to bond for improvements. This policy also was not in line with what other power companies and municipalities do.

The suggestion, which was approved at the meeting, was for Lowell Light and Power to start charging for all electrical services, including use, maintenance and construction of electrical facilities used by the city such as street lighting. Lowell Light and Power would be invoiced for water and wastewater use. The city also would receive about 4.5 percent of the company's gross income.



Lowell postmaster, Gil Brown unveiled the newest stamp in honor of America's veterans. Pictured with him are Mike Willard, Gordon Marshall and Charlie Doyle.



A salute to those who served... A ceremony for the 137th Day of Remembrance was held at the Oakwood Cemetery.

June 6, 2001

Boaters using the Flat River will not have to worry about a wake ordinance along the portion of the river that runs through the city.

Planning commission chair, Jim Hall brought forth the idea of creating a slow-no wake ordinance similar to that of Vergennes Township after a few residents approached him with concerns about the speed of boaters on the river.

Within the city, the Flat River runs from the Grand River to the Attwood property located just before Vergennes Township. Vergennes Township has had a slow-no wake ordinance on its section of the river since 1994, which Hall presented to the commission as a possible outline for the city.

Not all of the planning commissioners feel, however, that there really is a need for such an ordinance.

With lack of support for the idea, Hall declared it a dead issue with the planning commission at this time, making no plans to work on such an ordinance in the future.

Planning commission chair, Jim Hall's idea for creating a Master Land Use Plan for the city went to the wayside when the planning commission learned of the cost.

After contacting designer Steve Langworthy, the commission received a quote of \$12,000 - \$15,000 to put together the future land use plan.

"A Master Land Use Plan would be nice to have to refer to, but I don't know if it's worth it," Hall said after hearing the cost.

The planning commission decides to pass on the Master Land Use Plan for now. Instead, Hall requested that commissioners write down their thoughts about different areas of the city; in so doing, the commission would work from those ideas along with the suggestions of the current Master Plan.

When the Lowell Planning Commission approved another variance for a house that didn't quite fit the minimum usable floor area, it became apparent that something needed to be changed.

After reviewing the city ordinance and a group of homes on High and James streets, planning commission member Clark Jahnke presented the commission with a plan he believed would solve the problem: Revise the current zoning regulations for residential housing.

Review, cont'd, pg. 24

Ashley McFaden, age 10
Mrs. Reed
Cherry Creek

James Reagan, D.D.S.
207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331
Ph. 897-7179

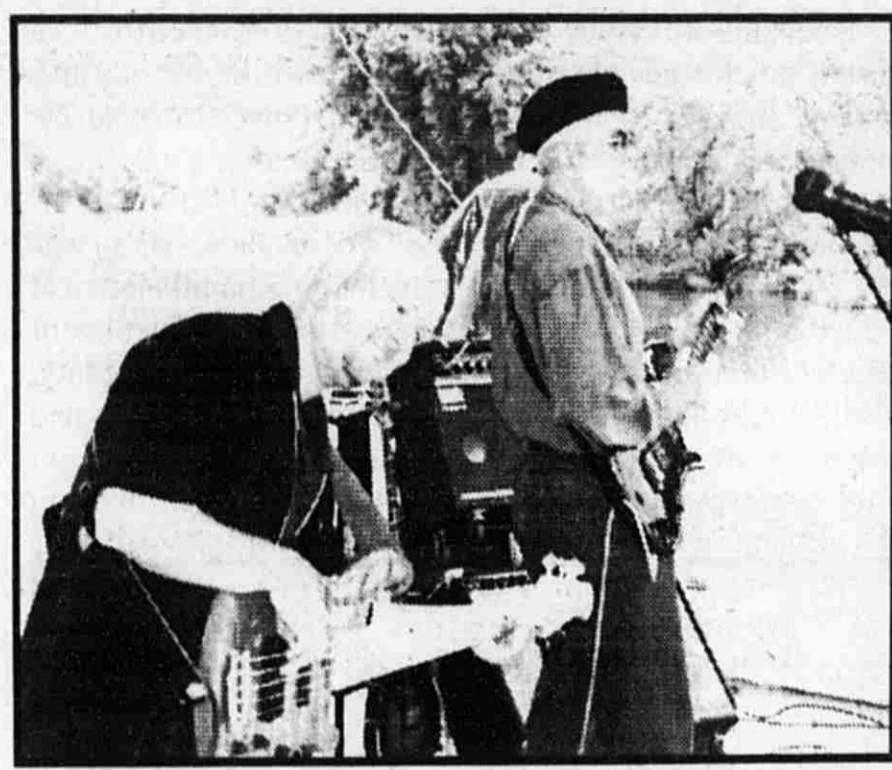
Happy Holidays

Nicole Halbeisen, age 10
Mr. Jacobus
Cherry Creek

LOWELL YMCA
323 West Main, Lowell
PHONE 897-8445

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 23



It had been nearly 10 years in between visits to the Showboat for Jimmy Stagger.

The blues artist returned with a different band and a new CD Thursday night as he opened the 10-week Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series.

The opening week of the concert series was missing sunshine but the cloudy skies and intermittent rain drops did not deter roughly 150 Stagger/blues fans as they enjoyed two hours of music from the Grand Rapids artist.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will get its increase in operational funds, and city residents will not see an increase in their millage rate, but will see an increase in trash and yard waste bags.

The Lowell City Council approved a \$2.2 million budget for 2001-2002 after an hour-long discussion about changes to be made to the budget. The budget goes into effect July 1, 2001.

One area that received the most attention was the 400 percent increase in operational costs for the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Also on the possible chopping block was the sidewalk contribution the city gives to residents for putting in new or repairing sidewalks. Staff recommended keeping the program.

To help with costs for trash removal, the council also agreed to raise the price of trash bags from \$6 to \$7 for a package of 10. Also yard waste bags would increase from \$5 to \$7 for a package of 20. Dave Pasquale, city manager, said the increase will hopefully encourage residents to recycle - that cost is paid entirely by the city.

The opportunity to play in rivalry games with Notre Dame, Michigan, and Penn State attract a lot of high school seniors to Michigan State University.

Michigan State head football coach, Bobby Williams wants to change that.

"I don't want players to come here to play in those games. I want them to come here to win those games," he said.

Williams prepares for his second full season as the Spartans' head football coach.

Williams tells a Lowell Rotary luncheon crowd that he believes the MSU football program is ready to take that next step in development.

Roger and Bonnie Wall have never run a kids' summer tennis program before.

So naturally, they looked for advice. They get it from one of the country's eminent tennis instructors, Dennis VanderMeer.

They traveled down to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where Bonnie enrolls in two programs - Tennis University I (community tennis program on how to teach community tennis) and Tennis University III (a program on how to teach kids tennis).

The Lowell tennis coach leaves with certification from the United States Professional Tennis Registry.

VanderMeer started his program, teaching people how to teach tennis, 25 years ago.

Wall will take what she learned from her six-day visit in Hilton Head and manage Lowell summer programs.



Mary Bommarito's fancy for art fed her decision to take a watercolor painting course, taught by Loretta Sailors, through the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Bommarito took the course back in 1999. Not quite two years later, her work is among the 30-plus artists featured in the "Celebrate Lowell" exhibit at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

The exhibit features visual art by local artists (ages 18 and older) from the Lowell area, as well as the communities of Saranac, Alto and Ada.

In addition, the exhibition presents poetry, creative writing, and scripts written by children and adults who participated in the Lowell Area Arts Council's creative writing contest.



Their best days have not yet passed, but Sunday's 123rd commencement is one the graduates from the 2001 Lowell High School class aren't likely to forget.

Prior to carrying out one final assignment, the 252 graduates were reminded of leadership, service, nurturing their dreams, truthfulness and daring themselves to do something they might not otherwise do.

Lowell's Kristi Ford places third in the state in the high jump. The senior cleared 5'4". It was her best finish at state, supplanting her 2000 fourth-place performance.

Ford finished second at the conference and regional meets leading up to the state finals.

The Lowell YMCA, Middle School and Lowell Police Department work together to set up and deliver an at-risk mentoring program for middle school kids.

The program has identified 20 middle school students at-risk. They are defined as youth who tend to be unwilling to accept adult direction, need immediate gratification, lack some respect for authority figures, and may also have a poor image of self-worth.

June 13, 2001

The city of Lowell once again hires one auditing firm to review all of its budgets including Lowell Light and Power and Lowell Cable.

It is the same move the council tried to do last year. The Lowell Light and Power Board, which oversees both LL&P and Lowell Cable, however, hired its own firm to audit its budgets which meant two different firms reviewed the same budgets.

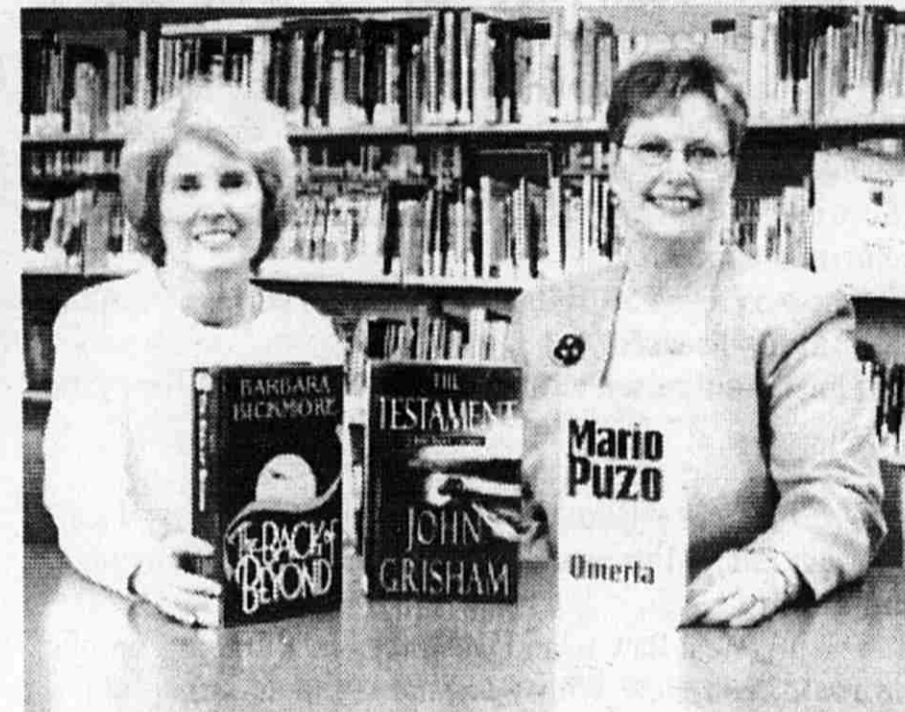
Lowell city manager, David Pasquale said he talked it over with Lowell Light and Power general manager, Tom Richards, who indicated he was willing to have the firm of Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson and Dickinson audit the two entities' books along with the city's general fund.

Lowell City Council moves a little closer to having its new City Hall/police station with the hiring of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber as the architecture and engineers for the

project. The council accepted the firm's bid of \$66,500 to refine the city's schematic design of the City Hall/police station project. The firm would create more detailed plans for the project, such as how the building would be built.

The city's men and women in blue received some support from the Lowell City Council for a 3.5 percent wage increase.

The council approves a new three-year contract with the Lowell Police Association, which represents five officers and one sergeant. The new package allows for a 3.5 percent wage increase for all six employees in the first year of the contract along with wage re-openers for the second and third years.



Linda DesJarden, president of North Kent Auxiliary 3430 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, presents Jane Aronson with a check for \$500 toward the purchase of large print/audio books to aid the visually impaired. Donations to area libraries now stand at \$5,000. The nonprofit organization has 132 chapters in Michigan and supports numerous charitable causes.

Whether it's the whimsical pottery palace on the wall, the warm cozy feeling of the make-believe fireplace, or the bright colors which illuminate the pottery studio, they are there to inspire individual creative powers.

"Pigs really do fly here," said Melissa Havey, owner of Pottery Palace at 209 W. Main as she points to the palace on the building's east wall which has a pig and pottery with wings flying about.

"The studio is a great escape for those who are not real artistic. It caters to those who need help. We carry sponges, utensils, stamps

and transfer paper to help assist them," Havey explained. The charge of Pottery Palace is to bring out an individual's artistic talent or skill at an affordable price. Patrons can turn plates, mugs, vases, coffee cups and other items into personalized gift ideas.



Travis Clement did his road work in preparation for the hills he would face on the 3.1 mile Cherry Creek Classic course.

His work resulted in a finishing time of 16:13, leaving the Byron Center native, "king of the hills" Saturday at the seventh annual Cherry Creek Classic.

Kelly DeBaar warmed up for the Cherry Creek Classic with an 8.2 mile jog to the Lowell Middle School with her friend, Nancy Liversedge. Then won the race in a time of 20:54.

Review, cont'd pg 25

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 24

A recently released Standard & Poors education evaluation analysis shows Lowell Area Schools achieves well above-average student results with comparatively low spending.

In fact, Lowell's Performance Cost Index (PCI) is the best in Kent and Ottawa counties. The PCI is a measure of the relationship between expenditures and student results and participation on the MEAP.

"Our score (83) indicates that Lowell taxpayers are getting a great value for the dollars they put into the system," said Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke.

Statewide, only 4 percent of Michigan school systems generated a more favorable PCI score.

Lowell's (PCI) for MEAP composite passing scores is \$88 which is much lower than the state average of \$124. When costs were adjusted for geographic variations and student circumstances, the adjusted PCI score dropped to \$83. The state adjusted average was \$108. A group of its peers averaged \$105.

Jim Reagan decided he wanted to serve on the Lowell Board of Education five years ago because he wanted to give back to the community.

The general school election enables the incumbent to continue to have a role on the board for the next four years. Reagan's seat was never in doubt as he went unchallenged.

Along with re-electing Reagan, the voters of the Lowell School District approved the renewal of the non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property tax by a vote of 605-132.

A grant which will help promote independent living among local seniors was one of 12 awarded by the Lowell Area Community Fund.

The Senior Neighbors program called "Senior Citizens of Lowell" will help promote independent living by providing meals, transportation, health and support services.

The organization was the recipient of a grant in the amount of \$17,500.

The 12 grants awarded on Monday totaled \$169,000. They include:

- \$68,000 to Lowell Area Schools for the "TOTS on Track for School."
- \$12,000 to the Lowell Area Arts Council (LAAC) to help implement the third year of its strategic plan "Vision 2005."
- \$8,000 to the Grand Rapids Symphony to bring its Artists-In-Residence program to the 800 students at Cherry Creek Elementary School during the 2001-02 school year.
- \$11,000 to Lowell Charter Township to extend the hiking path at Grand River Riverfront Park.
- \$3,960 to North Country Trail Association, Inc. for the National Trails Day Celebration.
- \$5,000 to the Camp Fire Boys and Girls.
- \$2,500 to the YMCA for the first annual Lowell Area health fair.
- \$8,550 to the Kent County Youth Agricultural Association for perimeter fencing.
- \$1,762 to the city of Lowell to purchase newer conceal-

able body armor.

The millage allows the district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills against non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property.

The renewal is good for five years (2001 through 2005).

Before their desks were cleaned, paraphernalia packed, and backpacks stuffed, middle school students at Grattan Academy recently decorated the entrance display at Grattan Township. The display case is adorned with colorful, three-dimensional scenes of "School's Out," "Grattan Glimpses," and "Vacation Fun."



Tom Gilbert, supervisor of the National Park Service, presented Lowell Mayor Michael Blough a key to the association's new national headquarters at 229 E. Main St in Lowell.

June 20, 2001

Citing his family's decision to go into missions work, councilmember Don Green announced at Monday night's city council meeting that he would not seek another term on the council.

Green has served Lowell by being on its city council for the past 10 years.

Green stated that his wife, Lynn, and he believe their calling is in missions work. He already has begun course work through Moody Bible Institute and is presently serving as a deacon in his church. During his tenure as a councilmember, the Green family has increased from three children to six, with three more expected through adoptions from Romania.

General contractor or construction manager? That is the question before the Lowell City Council as it proceeds with the next step of the City Hall/police station project.

Members of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc., the design firm hired by the city to work on the project, approached the council on the option of having a construction manager versus a general contractor.

A general contractor goes along with the traditional design and build, whereas the manager handles all of the construction work after the design phase is completed. A construction manager is a hired professional who works for the city and coordinates the whole project, similar to a general contractor, said Doug Crowley, also from Fishbeck.

Lowell resident, Tom Lawande is awarded the Michigan Department of Corrections Meritorious Service Award.

Lawande was nominated by Inspector Henry Tyler for his hard work and performance above and beyond the call of duty in solving an open homicide case resulting in the conviction of those involved.

Lawande, inspector, was honored at a ceremony held at Handlon Michigan Training Unit on May 23.

"This award is a multi-jurisdictional award as Lansing Police, Michigan State Police, Ingham County Sheriff Department and Michigan Department of Corrections all worked at solving this case," Lawande said.

Volunteers shared the impact Lowell YMCA's Invest In Youth has had on the community.

The story resulted through another successful chapter in the program's 20-plus-year tenure.

The 2001 Invest In Youth campaign brings in pledges of just over \$55,000, eclipsing last year's mark of \$50,000. In comparison to the other six area Y's, only the Downtown YMCA (\$80,000) raised more money.

This year, 35 volunteers shared their story with area businesses and individuals.

The money raised goes toward scholarships for youth who cannot afford the cost to participate in a Y program. Invest In Youth subsidizes youth programs and keeps them affordable for all.

In response to requests for sanitary sewer and water main service for the south side of M-21 west of Bowes Road, Lowell Charter Township decides to petition property owners in the district.

A water and sanitary sewer service district can only proceed to the initial steps of a special assessment and bonding process provided the township receives petitions from a majority of property owners.

If there is a majority interest, Lowell Township will proceed to first secure detailed estimates from the township engineer (Gary Voogt, Moore and Bruggink) and then proceed to a public hearing of necessity.

The petitions allow for property owners to state whether they are in favor or opposed to one or both assessments.

Review, cont'd pg. 26

COCOA
SUGAR
CHRISTMAS

Shaun, age 10
Mr. Jacobus
Cherry Creek

Rachel Walendzik, age 10
Mr. Fillman
Cherry Creek

A
Christmas
tree

Niki, age 10
Mr. Jacobus
Cherry Creek

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COUSINS

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Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 25

June 27, 2001

These ducks certainly don't dirty up the sidewalk, however, they are causing a stir with the city council.

Liz Baker, Chamber director, approaches the council about placing three-foot ducks along Main Street as part of a promotional/fundraising campaign for the Riverwalk Fest which takes place on the Saturday before Labor Day, this year being Sept. 1.

Four weeks ago, Baker asked if the ducks could be temporarily placed on the downtown area's lampposts. Her request received a cool reception, with the council suggesting the trees instead.

The council suggested using the flag poles which already have a spot for placement. Baker said her only concern is that it not create a public safety issue: it would need to be checked out further with Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine.

There were no surprises in Lowell city manager, David Pasquale's State of the City address.

The council accepted the address which covered growth issues that the city needed to address along with future development and improvements for the city. This was Pasquale's third State of the City address.

Pasquale noted in his address that while the city has remained about the same, growing by less than one percent in the years to 4,013 according to the 2000 Census, the surrounding communities

of Vergennes and Lowell townships have seen tremendous growth - especially Lowell Township which grew by 44.9 percent to 3,911 residents - which has an impact on the city.

When Michigan legislators mandated that all school districts provide free summer school programs for third graders who need help in reading, the collective response from school districts was, "There they go again," in reference to the ongoing court battle between the state and school districts over funding for mandated special education programs.

"If it's mandated, the state is supposed to fund it," said Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke.

Hearing these all too familiar cries, legislators rescind the mandate in the latter part of April.

Having already communicated its intention to offer a third grade program for students deficient in reading skills, Lowell School District decides to go ahead with plans to offer the free program.

School has been out for nearly a month, but the activity in and out of high school continues at a feverish pace for Lowell sports teams.

Eight youth team summer camps filled the gyms

and playing venues during the every two minutes. Summer sport camp participation levels continue to rise. Lowell athletic director, Barry Hobria, attributes the increasing numbers to better promotion of the camps, and coaches going down into the lower levels to push participation.

Lowell's planning commission doesn't even blink in taking unanimous action to halt the scrolling food marquee being displayed at McDonald's.

Doug Hopkins, city building inspector, noted McDonald's reason for the sign was so that it did not have to manually change it.

Section 20.04 in the city zoning book, under general signs provisions, states that no sign shall employ any flashing, moving, oscillating, blinking, or variable intensity light, provided variable time/temperature signs may be permitted.

The planning commission stipulates that the message on the marquee could not change more often than

every two minutes.

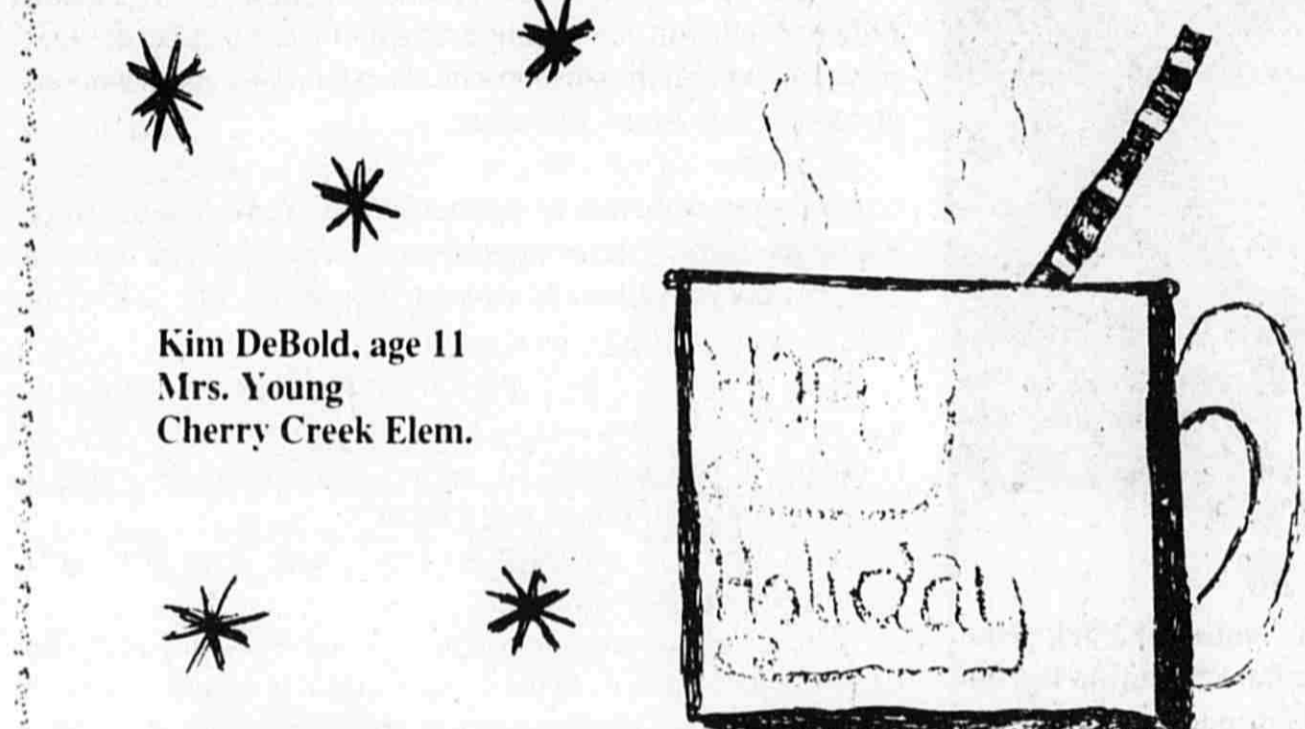
The planning commission recommends that a sign variance be permitted at the Senior Neighbor Center (514 S. Hudson).

The center wishes to install a 4 by 8 foot ground sign in its front yard. Since the center is located in the R-3 residential district, a ground sign may be no greater than 20 square feet, thus a variance was requested.

In an effort to make the water agreement between the city of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township a little clearer, the city approved a second amendment to the agreement.

The second amendment, which was to give approval contingent with Lowell Charter Township Board's consent, is designed to clarify the implementation of the rates set by the city. It does not change how the city calculates what it charges to the township, nor does it violate the original integrity of that methodology.

Review, cont'd. pg. 27



Kim DeBold, age 11
Mrs. Young
Cherry Creek Elem.

DURKEE LUMBER
ALTO, MICHIGAN • 868-6026
HOURS: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12 noon

and playing venues during the every two minutes.

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Review, cont'd. pg. 27

Happy Holidays!

James C. Lang, D.O.
Paul G. Gauthier, D.O.
Kevin Miller, D.O.
2550 W. Main, Lowell • 252-5600

Sheryl Huber, age 11
Mrs. Schneider
Alto

Kristin Johnson, age 10
Mr. Hawkins
Alto Elem.

LOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 Alden Nash South
897-7600

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 26

July 4, 2001

When Ray and Beth Wolfe heard and read about the lost children of Sudan, they were reminded of the desperate situation they witnessed in Laos during the Vietnam War.

The story of lost hope and the desperate situation in which the young boys and girls of Sudan were being forced to live in made it clear to the Wolfes that they needed to - no,



they wanted to - do something to help.

So when Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids first asked that the Wolfes open their home to two boys and later upped the plea to a family unit, Wolfes concurred.

"It was Beth's idea initially and then I too agreed," Ray Wolfe explained. The Wolfes have two children of their own: Katrina, a sophomore at Western Michigan University, and Tony, a junior at Lowell High School.

In mid-December, the Wolfes welcomed three new children - Akur, 12; Adeng (Martha), 16; and Malual (Gabriel), 18.

Their parents were killed in the violence over in Sudan and they survived eight years in a refugee camp - which had one small house, no light, no chairs, one meal a day and a water tap shared by thousands.

Despite the relief in being out of this war-torn country, they are forever scarred with the images they brought with them ... shaking the images is impossible. Akur was in her mother's arms when a soldier shot her mom. Adeng grabbed her younger sister and fled.

"Coming to America is like heaven," Gabriel explains. "It's a good place, a good life, education, and we're free. In refugee camp we ate one meal a day, now I eat all the time (pizza). Gabriel would like to return some day when the war is over.

For a dozen or so Lowell High School boys in the late '60s, early '70s, playing rock 'n roll was a creative outlet from the norm.

"We all played sports (basketball and football) and then we'd walk into the dances with wet hair and ready to play our music," said Rick Seese, one of the original members of the Plague.

Playing in a high school rock 'n roll band took up a lot of time. Members of the Plague would go down to what is now Showboat Automotive and practice a couple of times a week. "Music was a nice outlet for us, other than sports, and it was fun," said Dave Jones, another member of the Plague which eventually changed its name to Scragg Zoster. "It was also out of the norm and a creative thing to be doing."

The Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series (Thursday, July 5) is the venue for a reunion of the bands and its members and a rejuvenation of their music and of a time period that evoked passion and lasting memories.

"I'm excited about the enthusiasm and passion that they have exhibited to make this night happen," said Lowell Area Arts Council executive director, Loraine Smalligan.



Carol Blundy wins the grand prize, a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 Extended Cab, in the St. Patrick's Church 2001 raffle.

Other winners were Dave Nelson, \$2,500; Bud Herrington, \$1,000; and Michael Kelly \$500.

Pictured with Blundy are Steve Thomet, left, her husband Dan and her boy Nic.



Morris Blazo liked the railroad so much that he worked at it for 34 years and purchased a caboose for his backyard. Over that period of time, he gathered together quite a collection of memorabilia and artifacts which tell the story of the railroad, more specifically the Lowell Depot which served the Pere Marquette railroad.

The Morse code senders, stamps, lanterns, signs, old paper work, and other artifacts will all be a part of Lowell Area Historical Museum, thanks to a donation from Blazo's widow, Clara Blazo.

"Morris died in 1999, but he would have approved of donating the artifacts to the museum," Blazo said. "It's a way to preserve the history of the railroad and to share it with people for their enjoyment."

No sooner was the \$800,000 South Hudson Street reconstruction project completed, when the \$800,000 Downtown Development Authority project commenced.

South Hudson Street is opened to thru traffic for the first time in three months. What passers-through discovered was a street that had been widened to three lanes and new sidewalks. What they couldn't see was the water main which was put in south of M-21 to Grand Street.

The re-rating evaluation study of the Wastewater Treatment Plant indicates capacity could be increased.

Earth Tech, who carried out the evaluation study, however, recommends to the Lowell City Council against such an action since more stringent discharge standards could occur.

Review, cont'd. pg. 28

Chelsea Dyer, age 11
Mrs. Pupel
Cherry Creek Elem.

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LAUNDROMAT • SHIRT LAUNDRY

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700 E. Main St.,
Ph. 897-8455

Katie Krolewicz, age 10
Mrs. Pupel
Cherry Creek Elem.

Celebrate
The Birth Of Christ

Sierra Moore, age 10
Mrs. Schneider
Alto

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1601 W. Main St.
Lowell
897-9490

BERNARD'S
1601 W. MAIN
HOURS: Mon-Fri 8-8; Sat 8-5; Sun 10-3

Joel Morgan, age 11
Mr. Noskey
Cherry Creek Elem.

ADA-LOWELL SELF STORAGE
2075 Bowes Road, Lowell • 897-1000

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 27

July 11, 2001

Harold Zeigler Ford in Lowell was recently bestowed with Ford Motor Company's highest dealership honor - the 2000 President's Award.

The award is more significant than most because the customers are the judges. Through a comprehensive survey, customers rate dealers on the basis of their sales, service and overall ownership experience.

Harold Zeigler Ford in Lowell was one of 340 dealerships from more than 5,000 which were awarded with this distinction.

Cindy Geiger has spent her professional life as a social worker teaching kids and families through learned communication and negotiating skills.

For the last two-and-a-half years, Geiger has worked as a school social worker and counselor for the Lowell Middle School.

In the fall, Geiger's professional career will take a turn when the Saranac resident begins her new role as the assistant principal.

Geiger will implement and use a different process in her approach to the job than that of her predecessors.

The standard punishment approach will be replaced by a process which involves students in problem-solving and with techniques which will allow them to make responsible choices.

It's a process Geiger is comfortable with. "The communicating and negotiating skills involved in implementing the corrective model are the same ones I used as a social worker," she explains.

A Rocking Reunion hosted by the Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series reconnected classmates to a special time through the music of the late '60s, early '70s as performed by talented local musicians.

The 1,000 or so fellow classmates and local residents who came to listen were not disappointed by the play and sounds of The Shags, Headhunters, Trialism, Lomas Brothers, Scragg Zoster/The Plague and Alive and Well.

They were stopping from Greenville, Sheridan, Belding, Kentwood and even as far away as Alma to view the patriotic yard display set up by Lowell's Lynn Seese.

The resident, on Lincoln Lake Ave., has been putting up flags in her yard for roughly 12 years in celebration of the Fourth of July.

This year, Seese went beyond the norm as she decorated her property with 2001 U.S. Flags. She did so in celebration of the millennium.



Cader Olive, or as the flowers and bushes along the North Country Trails know him, "Nhat Noen," will conclude a journey, which began in April, some time before winter sets in... roughly 70 miles beyond Rochester, New York.

"I've spent most of my whole life trying to figure out what life is about - not taking time to appreciate places and people and to see things in their full detail."

Olive, who has carried a lifelong love affair for canoeing and exploring, sold his investments and now lives off the interest as he discovers the world of the north woods and all of its inhabitants.

The Fau Claire, Wis., resident, who ran his own carpentry business for 20 years, started his north woods adventure in Drummond, Wis. "The non-human part of the world is a companion to me. Every bush and flower has its own story."

July 18, 2001

Rockford Freshman Center assistant principal Linda Warren is hired by Lowell to fill the Lowell Middle School principal position. She replaces Mark Weber who retired following the 2000-01 school year.

Whatever distrust there was between educators and the state was strengthened last week when area educators learned that Gov. John Engler cut funding for education after legislature went on vacation without passing budget.

Garland Berry comes before the Lowell City Council hoping to get some answers about a long-term concern of residents on Foreman Road - truck traffic. This time around, where a petition didn't, Berry actually may have made a little progress. The result was the council agreed to look at the cost of an engineering study to determine the best way to direct the truck traffic in that area.

Mold chases Bowne Township officials out of their office at 6059 Lindfield and the threat of its return may keep them from coming back. With no guarantee that mold won't return even if the current structure is razed and a new one is built, township officials look to set up an appointment to have the former Alto United Bank building tested for mold.

Anyone planning to move a building in or through the city of Lowell will have a few more steps to take before getting permission. In response to a move that took place on June 19 where several businesses went without power for more than three hours, the council decides to put in place an ordinance which will require potential moves to get a permit and regulate several items including when affected businesses and residents should be notified.

July 25, 2001

Representatives from the School of Missionary Aviation Technology sought permission, and unanimously got it, to place another building on airport property owned by the city to help deal with increasing enrollment.

The proposed building will need to meet Vergennes Township building codes before being constructed.



Margarite Hoats has lived the belief that teaching was her calling.

The Lowell teacher did so with a professionalism that garners admiration and respect from her peers.

Hoats finished her 35th and final year, all in Lowell, in June. "I wanted to retire while I still loved what I was doing," Hoats explained. "I'm sure I am going to miss it a great deal."

Hoats taught at grade levels one, three, four and five. She liked fourth grade the most which explains why she taught at that level for 27 years.

The elementary teacher prepared for her education tenure at Olivet College. She interviewed with Steve Nisbet on campus in 1966. She started teaching in what is now Unity High School. From there, she moved to Runciman, Bushnell, and her last stop was Cherry Creek.

She served the last two years as a media teacher in the libraries of Bushnell and Cherry Creek elementary schools.



At the end of this summer, Lowell can expect to be invaded by three-foot-tall yellow creatures.

The ducks are part of the Riverfest event that takes place during Labor Day weekend. After several months of discussions, the Lowell Chamber of Commerce finally received permission from the Lowell City Council to place its three-foot ducks along Main Street in Lowell. The plan is for the ducks to run from one end of the city to the other.

The labor provided by Kent County Youth Fair board members and volunteers insures the purchase of thousands of dollars worth of fencing material.

In the plans to reconstruct South Hudson, Kent County removed the old fence in front of the fairgrounds with no intent to replace it.

Offering to provide the \$4,000 worth of labor it would take to install the new fence, the board requested and received a grant for materials in the amount of \$8,550.

Spencer Yang, manager opens Lowell's newest restaurant, Star East Buffet, 2155 W. Main St. (next to Family Fare).

A new concealed pistol statute which went into law on July 1 switched the burden of proof from the applicant to the state gun board.

With the old statute, the burden was on the applicant to justify why a concealed pistol was needed.

The new statute makes Michigan a "shall issue state." Translation, unless the gun board can show that the applicant has a criminal history or mental health problems, a permit must be issued.

The Oak Hill Estate (2615 Alden Nash) developer, Steve Hanson's strongest argument to have roughly 60 acres rezoned from R-1 to residential planned unit development comes from his neighbors.

Charles R. Myers, vice president and Lowell Area Market manager for Huntington National Bank, is named to the Advisory Committee for the Lowell Area Community Fund.

Review, cont'd, pg. 29

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 28

August 1, 2001

After several months of discussion, the Lowell Planning Commission decides it would rather go on a case by case basis when determining if a proposed home's floor area should be reduced.

The planning commission had been considering a proposal by planning commission member, Clark Jahnke that suggested decreasing the minimum usable square footage in the R1 district from 1,500 to 1,000 with 700 of that being required on the ground floor. In the R2 and R3 zones, Jahnke recommended that the minimum requirement be reduced from 1,000 to 850 with 700 of that being on the ground floor in R2 and 500 of it being on the ground floor in R3.

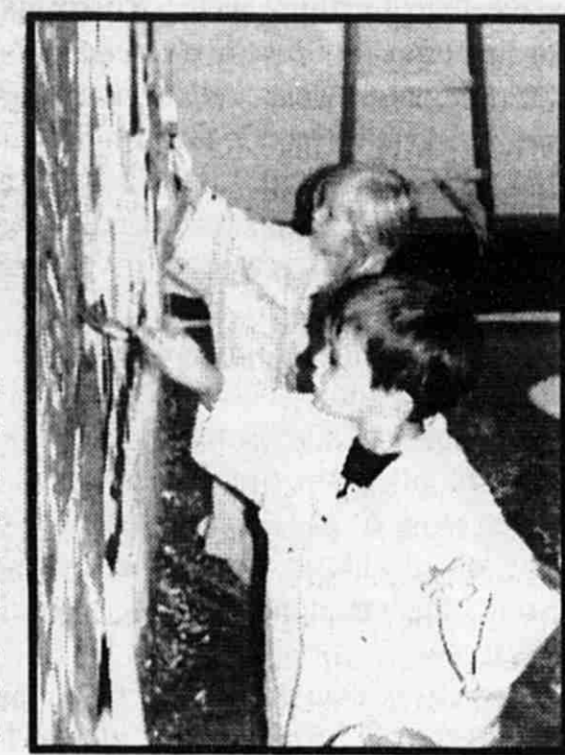
"I don't want him going there presenting this like it happens all the time, when it doesn't," B.J. Thompson said.

Planning commission chair, James Hall said he would be at the meeting and felt Jahnke and he could present a fair picture of what was taking place.

Lowell Area Arts Council's Art Explosion is visual artworks by children and adults, as well as art samplers and an interactive painting wall.

"The interactive painting wall is an everyday picture which visitors will see changes in the evolution of the art," said Loraine Smalligan, Lowell Area Arts Council's executive director.

Visitors to the art gallery explore the world of abstract expressionism through art-in-motion, a continuously evolving and changing 9 by 12 foot canvas painting at the Lowell Area Arts Council.



The success of some fair livestock auctions are judged based on what price the grand champion brings in.

That is not true when speaking of Kent County Youth Fair's livestock auction.

In each of the last two years, the livestock auction has averaged \$300,000. The board gets a four percent commission to cover auction expenses. The rest is all for the kids.

After three years of consideration, the Lowell Planning Commission has decided to drop the issue of a Farmers' Market.

A variety of reasons caused the commission to end discussions on the proposed market including visibility and interest. "It was a good idea at the time, but the more I have thought about it, it would be a hard thing to get off the ground," said commission member, B.J. Thompson.

Commission member Dan Pipe, who had been looking into the idea with former planning commission member, Gordie Barry, said he believed the biggest obstacle would be finding a spot that was visible enough for the market to be successful.

August 8, 2001

It was apparent to the Lowell Youth Football organizers that they needed something for kids under the age of eight. "They were coming to sign-up and we didn't have anything for them to do," Meppelink explained.

So Mile Meppelink, his wife Lois and Rick Zimmerman, director of 78er football, put a plan into action two years ago, creating a flag football league for young kids ages five to seven.

Before starting flag football, Meppelink needed the blessing of the Northern Rocket Football League director.

The success Lowell has enjoyed inspires the Northern Rocket Football League to require that all programs offer flag football in 2001.

With the exception of Lowell, the number of rocket football participants has been dwindling. Flag football is viewed as a good feeder program which can help reverse that declining trend.

Renovation work at 413 E. Main (formerly Rite Aid) gets under way.

The work, which is being done by Innovative Construction Services, is expected to be completed by Oct. 1.

Dollar General will lease a 6,800 square foot portion of the retail building.

The old, two-story hotel portion is being purchased by Greg Canfield.

Six Lowell girls, from the Linda Moon School of Dance, earn gold ribbons at the Dance USA Performing Arts Championship in Virginia Beach, VA.

Kaila Kurzhals, Julie Halbeiser, Rochelle Bieri, Lynda Horsley, Jenna Gillan and Malley Cahoon qualified for the national finals at the regional in Detroit.

George Lessens wasn't even a year removed from Penn State University when he joined two young meteorologists at WZZM-TV-13.

"I was hired by Jack Hogan in 1980 and I worked under Craig James and Bill Steffen," Lessens recalls.

James left WZZM for WOTV (Channel 8) in 1985, leaving Steffen and Lessens. The two would work over the next 20 years to make WZZM's weather presentation one of the best in West Michigan.

After nearly 21 years, to the surprise of even Lessens, Steffen announced he would be making the switch from WZZM to WOTV, rejoining Craig James.

His departure made way for Lessens' appointment as WZZM's head meteorologist.

A carved wood model of Noah's Ark, created by the Woodland Carvers Club of West Michigan, is on display at the Lowell Area Arts Council.

For over a year the Woodland Carvers Club members carved the four-foot-long ark with animal pairs including horses, alligators, giraffes, skunks, crows, fox, ostriches, bears, squirrels, deer, elephants and other animals.

The carvers add humorous touches to the project, such as a crow wearing glasses and the skunks riding in a dingy pulled behind the ark.

Those who took in one or all 10 weeks of the Lowell Showboat Summer Concert Series displayed an unquenchable thirst for music and felt a connection to tradition past.

The cost of the first-year series was roughly \$17,000, all of which was covered through grants and donations.

The cooperative organizational effort of the Lowell Chamber of the Northern Rocket Football League director.

Review cont'd pg. 30

Christmas comes only once a year

SNEAKERS

Kelsey Stickney, age 10
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elem.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

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Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek Elem.

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Jessica Reedy, age 10
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Mrs. Reed
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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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Certified Public Accountant
103 Riverside Dr., Lowell • 897-7711

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 29

ber of Commerce and Lowell Area Arts Council drew on an average of 400-500 people a week, according to Chamber director, Liz Baker.

In July, the Lowell City Council reviewed a draft ordinance.

Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale shared with the council additional changes which would be reflected in the proposed ordinance regulating the moving of buildings and structures within the city.

The ordinance as proposed requires a moving permit, outlining necessary elements of the application.

The proposed ordinance is reviewed by the council, the Lowell Planning Commission and Tom Richards, general manager of Lowell Light and Power.



Nancy Underwood, takes time to read and relax in the warm summertime temperatures while her daughters, Rebecca and Stacey participate in the soccer camp at Lowell High School.

A proposed amendment to a city zoning ordinance would call for "continuously maintained" landscaping.

Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale noted that the Lowell Planning Commission is concerned over landscaping which is allowed to wither away and never be replaced.

With the addition of the term "continuously maintained," shrubs and other plantings would have to be replanted.

The proposed amended ordinance reads that the planning commission requires approved landscaping, buffers, and/or greenbelts be continuously maintained to ensure that proposed uses be adequately buffered from one another and from surrounding public and private property.

Planning commission member, Clark Jahnke seeks the opinion of the city council on his proposal to change the zoning on James Street.

He proposes decreasing the minimum usable square footage in the R-1 district from 1,500 to 1,000 with 700 on the ground floor. In the R-2 and R-3 zones Jahnke was recommending the minimum requirement be reduced from 1,000 to 850 with 700 of that being ground floor in R-2 and 500 in R-3.

Jahnke's plan would assist in minimizing variances recognizing the need for smaller homes.

The planning commission voted 4-2 not to change the zoning. Instead, the majority felt the issue could be dealt with by such devices as variances.

The council was clear in that it would not consider change without a consensus from the planning commission.

August 15, 2001

The gauntlet is thrown down and with a little more than

two weeks to go, it appears that Riverwalk Festival Duck Race coordinators will meet the challenge.

Coordinators were challenged with selling \$10,000 worth of duck tickets by parade time on Saturday, Sept. 1 - reward being, if accomplished, Lowell High School football coach, Noel Dean would attire himself in the Chamber of Commerce duck suit for the Riverwalk Festival parade.

It will take the adoption of an ordinance if the city is to enter into a negotiated construction management agreement with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber (FTC&H) for the City Hall/police department facilities.

The request made by FTC&H would have the architectural firm serve as construction manager, and subcontract with various subcontractors for services required to complete the project.

The city's charter, however, contains language which prohibits the city from entering into such an agreement.

On an average summer/spring day, Lowell Light and Power operates at between 7-9 mega watts of electricity.

Record-breaking heat indexes are not your average summer days. LL&P runs at all-time peak loads - 15 mega watts.

In a last-minute decision, Jeanie Dunn decides to run for Kent County Youth Fair Queen. The same success she's enjoyed showing horses followed her through the queen competition. Dunn is crowned on Aug. 5 following the Kent County Youth Fair's opening ceremonies.

Paul Sikkenga had a dream that his four children, born July 6, were walking around in dirty diapers.

For some, that may seem more like a nightmare, but for Paul and his wife, Teri, it will be a welcomed sight.

The Lowell couple became parents of quadruplets (14 weeks premature) last July, exactly one year after they lost twins who were born at 17 weeks.

The premature quadruplets, now all well over two pounds, are expected to remain in the neo natal unit at Spectrum Health until at least Oct. 10, their original due date.

Randy and Becky Wieland's request for a variance which would allow them a four foot high fence along their front yard lot line was denied by the Lowell City Council.

Since their home is located at the northwest corner of North Washington and Sherman, two front yards exist. Any fence abutting Sherman is restricted to three feet in height.

August 22, 2001

Lowell Middle School will join the half dozen or so area schools which have sacked the punitive approach to dealing with disruptions to the classroom teaching and learning process.

The LMS detention/in-house room has been eliminated and replaced with a Student Responsibility Center (SRC). The new approach will build better communication, more trust and mutual respect, thus creating less problems.

It will also keep kids in the classroom. With in-house detention, kids were missing three-four hours of class for disruptive behavior.

The new approach retains students in SRC only for the class period in which they were disruptive. They attend all other classes.

Lowell Charter Township auditor's report indicates the township is in better shape than most.

The current balance in its general fund covers 100 percent of the 2001-02 proposed expenditures. The carry-over total is

\$90,000.

Most other townships' general fund balance is only 45-75 percent of proposed expenditures.

The auditor indicates the township would need to decide what's a reasonable balance for it.



The senior dairy showmanship contest was the final event for two brothers whose Kent County Youth Fair combined tenure covers nearly 22 years.

Aaron and Ben Kaeb did not compete; instead they relished in the opportunity to maneuver their dairy cows around the Reath Barn floor one final time.

On this day, for the second year, the Michigan State students were beaten out by Byron Center's Bobbi Myer. Aaron Kaeb finished second and Ben Kaeb placed third.



In a last-minute decision, Jeanie Dunn decides to run for Kent County Youth Fair Queen. The same success she's enjoyed showing horses followed her through the queen competition. Dunn is crowned on Aug. 5 following the Kent County Youth Fair's opening ceremonies.

So how exactly do you enforce the zoning ordinance?

The city of Lowell believes it may have the answer: a dedicated enforcement officer.

For a 90-day trial basis, the Lowell City Council decides to hire the services of Imperial Municipal Services (IMS) to serve as an enforcement officer on zoning ordinance issues. IMS currently provides the city with some of those services along with building inspector services, which Doug Hopkins handles.

The issue came about with a change to another ordinance that would require businesses to continuously maintain landscaping. Mayor Mike Blough questioned how the city would enforce such a regulation.

City manager, David Pasquale discussed the matter with IMS and city staff, and the solution was to institute an

Review, cont'd. pg. 31

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 30

enforcement officer for up to 16 hours per week at approximately \$800 per week.

Blough said he felt the city needed to give the person in the position some direction as to what they should be doing. Pasquale said there would be an orientation meeting, but at this time staff was looking at primarily zoning issues such as making sure all requirements on site plans are met with sign???

Residents along Foreman Road will finally get what they are seeking: a traffic study to determine if there is a better route for the trucks.

Resident Garland Berry, of 407 Foreman Road, approached the council about a month ago wanting to know if the city would address the residents' concerns about traffic on Foreman Road. Berry, who lives on the northwest corner of Foreman and N. Hudson streets, said he had witnessed several events of truck drivers creating a very unsafe traffic situation.

After some discussion, the council votes 4-1 to move ahead with a \$1,900 traffic study that would include counts on the road and recommendations from Ed Swanson of Wade Trim on what possible routes would be available for such traffic or if that were even the best route.

The option was the less expensive of two. The other option would have encompassed meetings with residents and companies to seek solutions, costing \$4,500.

With little fanfare, the Lowell City Council put in place a new ordinance allowing the city to hire a construction manager.

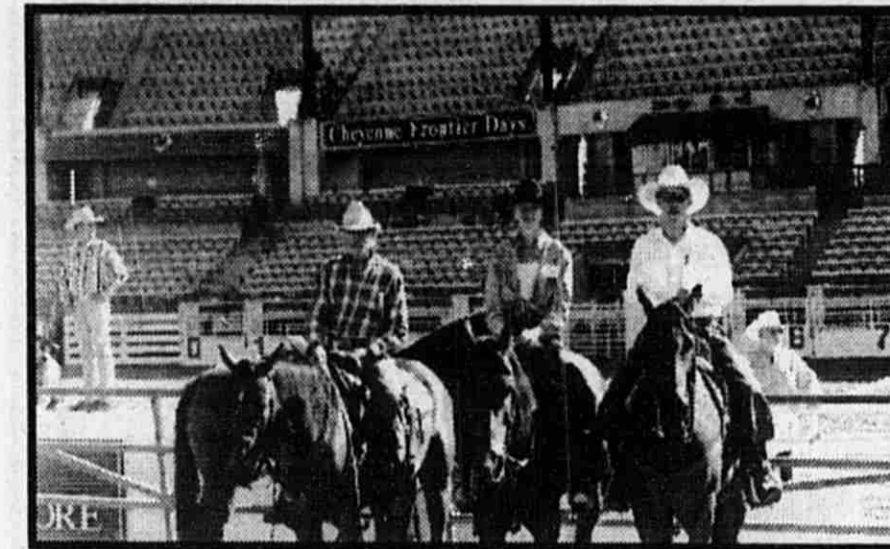
Following discussions with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber, Inc., it was discovered through city attorney, Richard Wendt that the Lowell City charter forbids the hiring of a position such as a construction manager.

Because of the complexity of the City Hall project, staff and council decided a construction manager is needed. With that in mind, the council approves an ordinance to allow the city to hire a construction manager.

The Lowell City Council is able to purchase the final piece of property it needed for the City Hall/police station project.

In a unanimous vote, the council approves the purchase of 310 Avery for \$130,000 along with paying the summer property taxes in the amount of \$646. The property was the last piece of seven city needed to acquire to

move forward with the proposed City Hall renovation and addition to the police station.



Mike Mankel, Rochelle Ludge and Sonny Elassor went out to ride in the world's largest outdoor rodeo - the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo. They came within a cattle's hair of winning the team penning competition.

Competing against 370 teams in the two-day event, the area trio placed second in the Pro-Am novice team penning event.

Mankel, Ludge (former Lowell resident who now resides in Mt. Pleasant) and Elassor were fifth after a first-round time of 22 seconds. They advanced to second with a second-round time of 29 seconds. The third-round time, the worst of the three rounds, was 37 seconds; however, the overall average of the three rounds left them second.

August 29, 2001

Anyone wanting to move a building may want to do it before September.

That was the recommendation of Mayor Mike Blough after the council unanimously approved a new ordinance specifically designed to regulate such operations.

The new ordinance,

to the mayor, requires those interested in moving a building to obtain a permit from the city 21 days before the planned move. This procedure will then assure the city that requirements such as liability insurance are met, utility users are notified 15 days in advance, and other important coordination measures are met.

The ordinance was proposed the beginning of July with city manager, David Pasquale collecting suggestions for changes from the council, planning commission, and Lowell Light and Power. Those changes included the 21-day notice along with a 15-day notice for utility users as well as a \$2,000 cash deposit to the city for damages.

Phase II of three, which will extend the Grand River Drive bike path from Buttrick to Division, is now a couple of weeks old, following a two-year wait for funds.

The \$1.3 million project is scheduled to be completed toward the end of October. The bike path will be a four-foot paved shoulder. There is a sufficient amount of right of way, thus none had to be purchased.

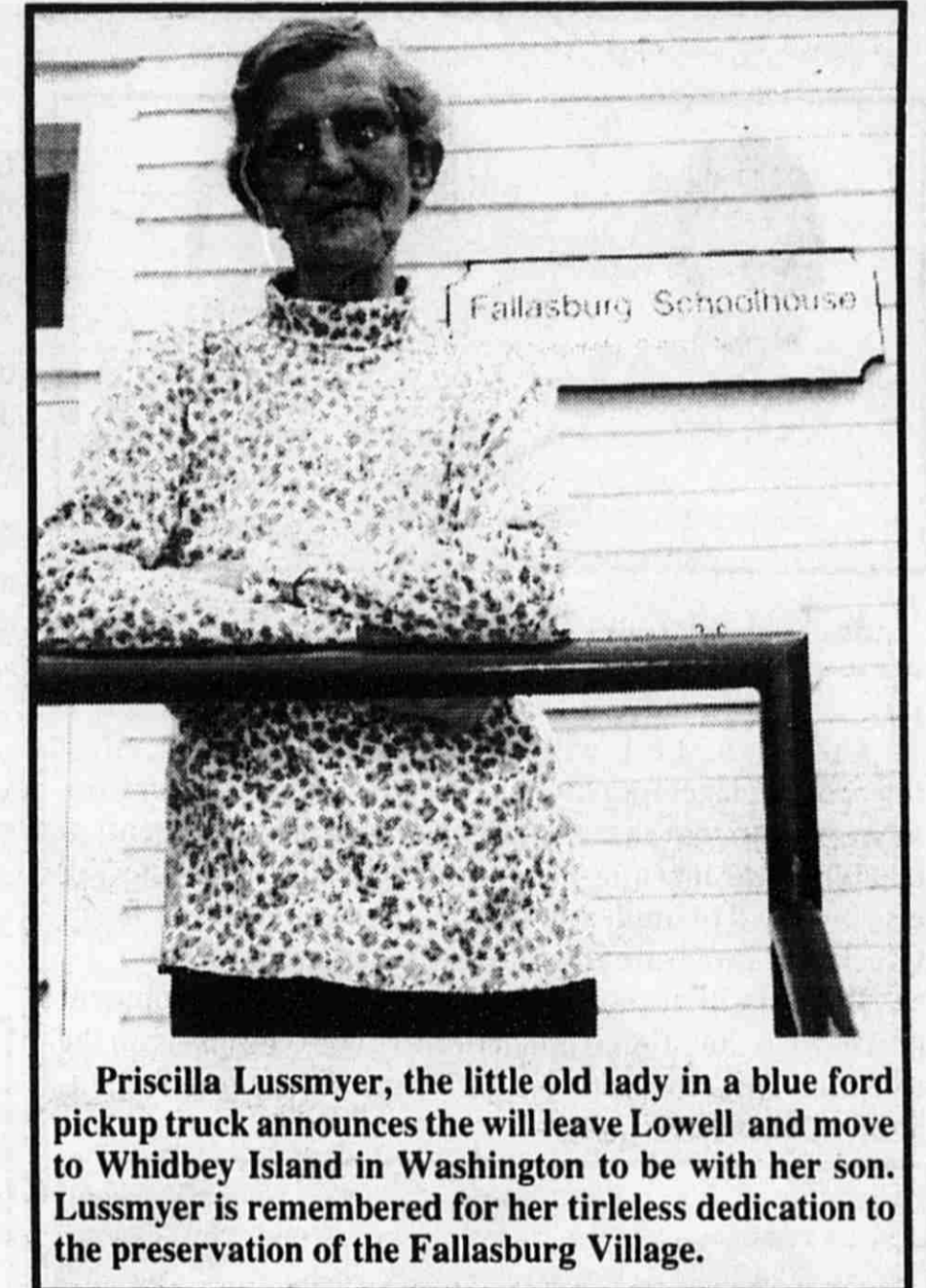
"The enthusiasm and support that the Lowell community shows for the annual CROP Hunger Walk is overwhelming," said Lowell Area CROP Walk coordinator, Lee Watterworth.

Again this year, the money raised will benefit the work of the Lowell Senior Neighbors and the Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The Lowell Senior Neighbors will receive a check for \$1,200 while the Flat River Outreach Ministries will receive \$5,100.

The balance of \$25,500 raised in pledges by over 200 walkers will be used in disaster areas such as Texas, Louisiana and Pennsylvania.

Internationally, this money will be used to help



Priscilla Lussmyer, the little old lady in a blue ford pickup truck announces she will leave Lowell and move to Whidbey Island in Washington to be with her son. Lussmyer is remembered for her tireless dedication to the preservation of the Fallsburg Village.

displaced families in the Balkans, Angola and Kenya.

Just when Mayor Mike Blough had filled every board and commission seat, another one became available.

Trudy Cahoon announces her resignation from the planning commission. In a letter to the commission, Cahoon cited family and business reasons for her departure.

Finding a place to park in the city of Lowell hasn't been that easy of a task since the Downtown Development Authority began work on overhauling four of the city's parking lots.

Started earlier this year, the project, according to city officials, is moving along in

hopes that the King Milling lot "on a temporary basis" will be open soon. The report on the parking lots was made during the Monday night planning commission meeting.

Planning commission member, John VanderWilp says he has heard a lot of "screaming" when the house was being moved down Main Street past Keiser's; however, he has heard just as much from businesses with two parking lots being closed at the same time.

"I believe there was a thought that the King Milling lot would have been done and finished before the other lot was started," said planning commission member, Dan Pipe.

Ledger, cont'd pg. 32

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Cherry Creek Elem.

Cody Kastanek, age 11
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Cherry Creek Elem.

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In Michigan"
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PHONE (616) 897-5360

Have a dog or a Christmas

Dakota Bergy, age 10
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elem.

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 31

September 5, 2001



Beckie Cutler and Mary Burton begin their new tenure as dual assistant principals at Cherry Creek Elementary.

Cutler's new role will focus on devoting a major effort toward the development of a positive behavioral environment with an emphasis on the constant improvement of teaching and learning for students grades K-5. She will also be asked to implement Character Counts into Cherry Creek and integrate it with Bushnell Elementary.

Burton will devote her major effort to the development of creative educational opportunities with emphasis on the constant improvement of teaching and learning for students grades K-5.



Following their second morning run of the new school year, roughly 35 bus drivers; school transportation director, Larry Mikulski; Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke; and school board president, Pete Gustafson gathered at Keiser's for the ninth annual appreciation breakfast hosted by Lowell's Dave Thompson.

Thompson presented awards to Howard Burton for driving a bus the most miles during the 2000-01 school year.

Not present at the breakfast, but also receiving awards were Janet Bieri for the most years of service (33) as a Lowell bus driver and Lowell bus mechanics Leo Bowen and Duane Hamilton for the numerous commendations they have received from the State Police.

Same programs: new director.

Dan Stevens is the Lowell YMCA's new program director. The Hope College graduate started his new duties on Aug. 10.

"I'm a big fan of sports and recreational activities," Stevens explained.

Stevens will run the basic Y youth sports programs: soccer, basketball, baseball and softball, and will seek out program sponsors.

With a new gym and new landscaping in front of Alto Elementary, distracted visitors may miss something hidden in plain sight.

It's the 12-foot totem pole which was designed and imagery painted by last year's outgoing fifth graders.

"It's still a work in progress," said Alto art teacher, Anna Marie Beduhn. "There are still some star pieces to put on the top and this year's kids are making things to put on it," she explained.

Helping last year's fifth-graders with the construction of the totem pole was artist, Reb Roberts.

It cost \$1,000 to design, construct and erect.

Students raised \$700 of that through the Alto Folk Art furniture auction.

The wooden beam for the totem pole was donated by Wolverine Shoe Factory.



September 12, 2001

A large rock sits in the frame of a ground-mounted, illuminated Lowell Family Medical Center sign at 2550 W. Main.

It was one of three local businesses victimized by vandals over Labor Day weekend.

"The damage was inflicted late Friday (Aug. 31) night, early Saturday (Sept. 1) morning," according to Lowell police chief, James Valentine.

Other businesses to incur damage were Hooper Printing (sign, door and window) and Fuller Septic (sign). The Family Medical Center estimates that the damage incurred was roughly \$2,500. The dollar tags to repair Fuller Septic's illuminated sign is \$2,500 and Hooper's sign, window and door is \$400.



Two years after the ravages of war devastated the people of Kosovo, the number of adult and youth services around the world looking for an opportunity to give from their hearts, extend their hands and share hope that the living word of God is growing.

Lowell youth David and twin sister, Andrea Kropf, from the Lowell Christian Life Center, joined a 24-person team from Michigan on a 10-day trip to Kosovo to present the gospel, skits and videos.

It was the first time in 400 years that the country had invited any one group to come in and introduce God and to bring hope to its people.

Matthew Hafey recorded some of his writings, poetry and comedy sketches onto a CD for a couple of his friends.

In listening back to it, he questioned why anyone would like his voice.

The answer was in his writing. Hafey, who was killed in a single car accident on Tuesday, Sept. 5 was remembered by friends and teachers for his ability to entertain and make people laugh, and for his strong sense of self.

Ionia County Sheriff's Department reported that Hafey, on his way to a friend's house, was driving northbound on White's Bridge Road, when he lost control of the vehicle on the gravel road and hit a tree. The accident occurred at approximately 4:25 p.m. on Whites Bridge Road near Centerline.

Much like the economy, the Lowell School District is realizing a decline in student growth.

The result may change the landscape of the recently approved school bond. Superintendent of Schools Bert Bleke said what and when it's built will be re-looked at.

"What we don't want is to build too many seats - which would have a negative impact on the general fund," Bleke explained.

Also negatively impacting the general fund is the distinct possibility that the \$72.24 per student in state revenue cut by the governor may not get reinstated. If the cut sticks, Lowell will lose \$260,000.

September 19, 2001

Lowell joins the nation in a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. Approximately 400 people gather on the



Two planes crash into the upper floors of both World Trade Center towers minutes apart in what President Bush said was an apparent terrorist attack. The first plane to hit the World Trade Center was hijacked after takeoff from Boston. Within 15 minutes of the trade center bombings the Pentagon was also hit.

Riverwalk for the noon ceremony.

Lowell's city council approves a bid from Williams & Works for \$89,300 for several spring road construction projects.

Sticker shock is exactly what the Lowell City Council suffers after seeing an estimated \$3.75 million City Hall/police station project jump to \$5.25 million - almost doubling the original estimate.

September 26, 2001

A bomb threat enticed junior Jessie Hunt to leave Lowell High School Wednesday morning; a fatal accident that afternoon will keep her from returning.

"It's not fair. Jessie wouldn't have skipped school if there had not been a bomb scare," said Hunt's friend, Désirae Harmon. "She'd be here today."

Hunt was killed on Wednesday (Sept. 19) when the car (1993 Saturn) she was riding in was rear-ended by a large single axle stake truck.

Lowell community's character/trait initiative commenced six years ago.

In an effort to expand upon past school and community work, the initiative will begin a partnership with the National Character Counts coalition.

"The partnership will bring new educational resources to the school district and community, allowing us to be increasingly effective in helping students become better citizens," said Lowell TOTS director, Kathy Cole. "The partnership will enable us to take the character initiative to another level through resources, programs, training and technical assistance."

Lowell resident, Dave Coons comes before the Lowell Planning Commission in hopes of getting a variance to allow for his RV to be parked in the driveway of his home.

According to the zoning ordinance, homeowners cannot park RVs or other recreational vehicles such as boats and jet skis in the front yard of their property. Such items need to be placed in an enclosed building or located in a rear yard and outside of a required side yard. Such vehicles may be parked in the front yard for one 7-day period every six months.

In Coons' case, he has had a motorhome since 1983 and has parked it in his driveway until a few years ago when he had the roof of his carport replaced. At that time, he had the slab widened so he could park it next to the garage. Coons is unable to park it behind his home, since it is all woods and the cost of building a garage for it would be expensive. Coons said the size of the garage would make the house look lopsided.

The Lowell Planning Commission was hoping to hear good news about the city's movement toward a Wellhead Protection Program... however, it wasn't quite what the water treatment plant superintendent had to say.

"Basically, it's not going anywhere," said George Regan to the planning commission at its Monday night meeting.

The problem faced by the Water Treatment Plant has been one of expansion and maintenance which, in turn, has eaten up a large portion of the plant's budget.

"So when it comes to the end of the year, there is nothing

Review, cont'd. pg. 33

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 32



Well over 6,000 are missing and presumed dead from the bombing of the World Trade Center twin towers.

Roughly 300 are fallen New York City firefighters and policemen who lost their lives in attempting to rescue and save others.

The West Michigan Fire Chiefs Association and the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, in an effort to help the families of the fallen, initiated a campaign, "Pennies From Heaven."

Citadel Broadcasting (WLAV, WBBL, WODJ WKLQ) endorsed the campaign and began raising funds for the families.

The local firefighters and police officers had raised an incredible \$30,000.

left," Regan said.

A Wellhead Protection Program is a district that surrounds a city's water fields and wells. The district helps the government define more clearly what can and cannot go near the city's water supply so as to prevent contamination. The city has four wells and one water field.

Lowell Planning Commission chairman, Jim Hall figured it was going to be a breeze in determining which front of a corner lot is going to be the front and which is going to be the side. It turned out to be a lot harder than it looked.

The planning commission was ready to approve a new ordinance which would make the narrowest side of a corner lot running along a road, the front yard of the property, with the other frontage running along the road being the side yard. nomic growth.

Gilmore Enterprises is looking to renovate and open a restaurant and bar facility at 201 E. Main Street, formerly the White Swan.

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The Lowell Area Historical Museum is a gift for future generations that celebrates generations past.

"History and time are a continuum and thus we do not view the opening of this museum as the end or our final goal. We have a vision for the future," said Lowell Area Historical Museum president, Jim Doyle at the ribbon-cutting grand opening.

"Today we make history and today we give a gift; a gift of remembrance, intrigue, imagination and of beauty," Doyle explained.

Local residents who visited the museum on Saturday were deeply impressed by all those traits.

"I've seen many small town museums - none have been this well done. This museum rivals the state museum," said Lowell's David Thompson. "They have done a first rate job in putting this together."

Review, cont'd. pg. 34

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Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 33

left," Regan said.

A Wellhead Protection Program is a district that surrounds a city's water fields and wells. The district helps the government define more clearly what can and cannot go near the city's water supply so as to prevent contamination. The city has four wells and one water field.

Lowell Planning Commission chairman, Jim Hall figured it was going to be a breeze in determining which front of a corner lot is going to be the front and which is going to be the side. It turned out to be a lot harder than it looked.

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October 3, 2001

It was the mother earth load of blood drives.

Every existing record was broken. The Lowell Rotary blood drive on Wednesday (Sept. 26) set new records for signups, pints of blood given and new donors.

"There's no doubt the recent events in New York had an impact," said Lowell Area Fire Department's Mark Mundt. "I have no delusions that these numbers will be broken any time soon."

The numbers Mundt speaks of are the 100 people who signed up to give blood, the 77 who gave blood and the 14 donors who gave for the first time. "People had to wait as long as 60-90 minutes to give blood. Some whose schedule did not permit them to wait had to be turned away," explained Mundt.

A liquor license is not necessary to operate a restaurant/bar facility at 201 W. Main, but to make it as viable as Greg Gilmore, of Gilmore Enterprises, would like it is key.

Gilmore goes before the city council seeking a public hearing set so the issue of a Class C Liquor License can be discussed.

Because there were no quota or on-premise licenses available in this area, Gilmore seeks to attain one of 50 licenses available through the state for Downtown Development Authority district, created four years ago.

The state allocated 50 Class C Liquor licenses for DDA's, 10 remain statewide. Gilmore explained that given the time requirements for public notice and hearing, timing is critical in order to have any chance for this to be considered by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) this year.

October 10, 2001

"Do you notice anything different about these words?" Tammy DeBaar, director of the Wittenbach Center, asked a group of students as they moved through the property located on Vergennes Street.

It is a technique DeBaar uses to get students to see what is around them... an important lesson for these students whose backgrounds are very diverse. Students in a program came from Grand Rapids' Alexander Elementary School and St. Andrews. And while the students were there to learn about hydrology and atmosphere as part of a larger program, they also got the chance to learn about each other.

In a night of what seemed to be bad news about the budget and future construction projects, the Lowell Board of Education heard some good news from the district's auditors.

Phil Saurman, from the firm of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter, presented the board with the audit for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Saurman said the district deserved high marks for getting itself ready for the audit in August. The fiscal year closes at the



It was the gym that wasn't going to be built. However, the parents of Alto Elementary School rolled up their sleeves and proceeded to convince the Lowell Area Schools - especially Superintendent Bert Bleke - the need for a facility in that school.

Their efforts were honored when current and former students and staff along with Board of Education members and Bleke dedicated the new 4,000-square-foot facility.

The monies for the gym came from the recent bond millage, and Bleke easily admitted to all who were there

end of June. This means the business office is working in a timely fashion, providing accurate information, he said.

The report was good, indicating that the district had about \$6.1 million in revenues last year. The fund balance saw a drop of \$600,000 to about \$3.2 million, which is 11 percent.

After months of discussion and in light of the recent events in September, the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education decides to delay any future construction projects.

A bond issue approved by voters two years ago included the development of a new elementary school and an addition to the high school. Both projects have been delayed for a year due to three reasons, according to Superintendent Bert Bleke. Those reasons are economics, political uncertainty, and flat student growth.

Lowell Area Schools faces the reality of a sluggish economy by prioritizing programs and preparing for some large cuts from the state.

"We are in a good spot... in that some districts have already had to make some major cuts and we haven't done that this year," said Connie Gillette.

The state already cut funding for readiness programs, with Lowell losing about \$50,000. Unconfirmed reports have stated that some or all of that funding may be restored.

Gillette also reported the state revenues for the district will be down and expenses will be up. The district hired more staff this year, added extra programs, and installed a new sound system at the football stadium—all of which have affected the budget.

Gillette said she also has been told to expect a five to 10 percent cut in funding this year and/or next year.

"With this in mind, we have started to do some threshold budgeting, where we prioritize what our most important programs are," Gillette said.

"Now be careful here, it goes down a little," said Audrey Dykstra, making her way from the dining room to the kitchen of her former residence at 310 Avery St.

Sure enough, as you make your way from the dining room to the kitchen, there appears to be about an inch and a half drop - just the right height for someone to stumble over.

Dykstra knows every little dip, turn, and corner of the house as well as she should, since she has lived there for more than eight decades - minus the time she and her husband lived in an apartment in Grand Rapids. She easily admits that the familiarity has helped over the years as her eye sight has started to fail and her sense of balance is a little off.

But starting last week, she has a new home at the Grand Rapids' senior retirement Villa Maria - a place she moves through "at my own peril," she said with a little laugh. The furniture is more on the edges of the room versus the closeness of her old home, where she could catch her balance if need be.

The city purchased her home earlier this year. It was the last parcel needed for the construction of the new City Hall/police station project.



October 17, 2001

Inappropriate signage threatened the lease contract that Innovative Construction had with its tenant, Dollar General at 314 E. Main.

A 60-day certificate of occupancy was imposed on Innovative Construction by Lowell's Downtown Historic Commission for being in violation of the sign code... violations which were missed in a review process.

Joe Nawrocki, owner of Main Street Investments LLC, as builder for Innovative Construction, argues successfully before the Lowell Downtown Historic Commission that the tenant, not Innovative Construction, is responsible for issues dealing with signs.

In its decision, the Lowell Historic Commission approves a permanent certificate of occupancy, stating the sign issue was Dollar General's problem and not Nawrocki's.

The Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation elected officers at its regular meeting in October.

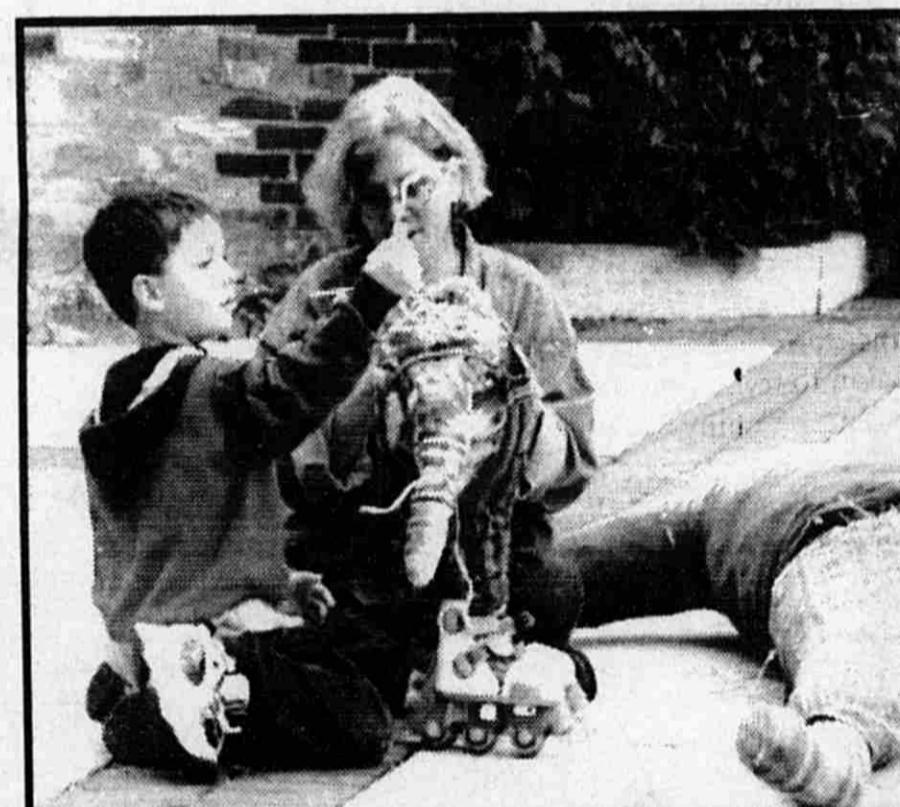
Officers were as follows: Marsha Wilcox, chair; Dave Thompson, vice chair of fund development; Barb Gillman, vice chair of program development; Melanie Brim, secretary; and Tom Karas, treasurer.

Bowne Township residents will soon be able to access information ordinances, events, minutes from meetings and a number of other informational details from the Bowne Township web site.

Blake Forstlund, Data Consultants Inc., has been hired to design a web site for the township. The township will incur a one-time fee of \$250 and can purchase two hours of maintenance each month for \$35. Any time over that will cost the township between \$85 and \$135 an hour.

It's an expensive proposition to replace a 22-year-old fire truck.

It is made a whole lot easier for the Lowell Area Fire Department when it learned that the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund will provide a \$100,000 grant toward the purchase of the new \$275,000 pumper/tanker.



Lorraine Smaligan and her son Connor took part in the Chamber of Commerce's scarecrow day on the Riverwalk. Smaligan's and other scarecrows were used to decorate the city.

The Lowell Township Board approved an increase in its support of the North Kent Transit Service as it pledged \$3,000 to keep the service operating in Lowell Charter Township.

The residents along Foreman Road asked for and received a study on traffic conditions; the results, however, weren't quite what they had hoped for.

Lowell city manager, David Pasquale reports on a traffic study done by Ed Swanson from Wade-Trim. The findings of the report indicated that the amount of truck traffic on Foreman Road traveling east of Gee Drive to and from Hudson Street is reasonable for this street.

However, after interviews with residents and the three major industries in the area of Foreman Road and Hudson Street, Swanson said he did discuss having the industry owners encourage truck drivers to use an alternative west route, taking Foreman Road to Alden Nash and then on to M-21.

Councilman Don Green favored not only the wait-and-see approach to the traffic on Foreman, but also to looking into costs on widening the turn radius for the corner.

Seeing it only as a plus to its downtown, the Lowell City Council unanimously approves a resolution in support of granting Gilmore Enterprises a liquor license.

Gilmore Enterprises, which owns The B.O.B. in Grand Rapids, The Kirby Grill in Grand Haven, Rose's and Rose's Express in East Grand Rapids, and the Thornapple Bistro in Ada, is seeking one of a possible 10 Downtown Development

Review, cont'd, pg. 35

Year-In-Review, continued... From Page 34

Authority liquor licenses from the state Liquor Control Commission. To receive such a license, which would be a Class C, both the city and the local DDA must adopt resolutions finding that the license would prevent further deterioration within the Development District and promote economic growth.

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October 24, 2001

"Shawn Rosema, come on down... you are the next contestant on the Price is Right."

Rosema, a contestant on the game show, wins a 2001 Dodge Neon.

After some discussion on landscaping, St. Mary Catholic Church receives the Lowell Planning Commission's blessing to move forward on plans to construct a 10,776-square-foot Family Life Center.

The new center will be an addition to the church's existing facility and will include a lobby, drive up canopy, nursery, meeting room, restrooms, gym, kitchen, and storage. Seeing no problems with the site plan, the commission unanimously approves it with commission member.

Still not seeing a good solution to the front yard issue on corner lots, the Lowell Planning Commission opts for a work session to try and iron out the problems.

The planning commission was scheduled to review the proposed ordinance change that would make the narrowest side of the lot facing the street become the front yard for a corner lot.

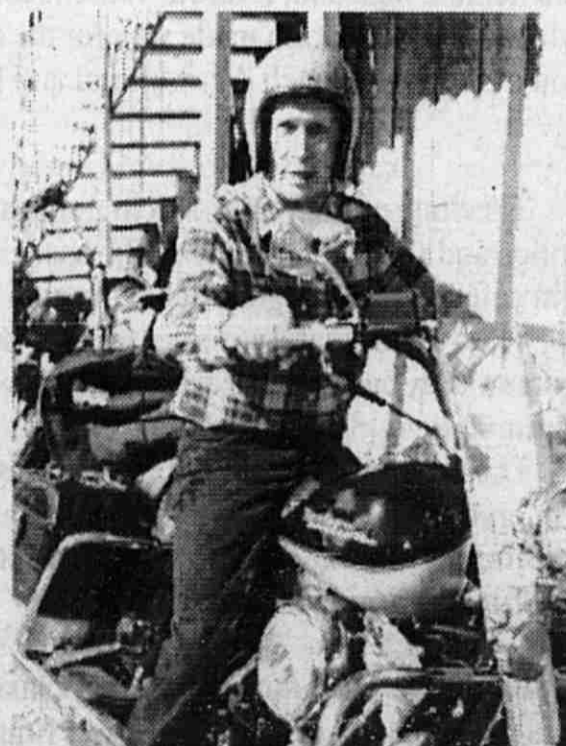
Residents attending a planning commission meeting say they feel a city zoning ordinance requiring that recreational vehicles be parked in back yards or back side yards or stored off site is unreasonable, especially in regards to allowing them only one 7-day period in six months to park a recreational vehicle in their driveway.

Planning commission chair, Jim Hall offered a challenge to the residents who felt the ordinance should be changed. Hall said he would like to see them review the current and past ordinance and come up with recommendations for what the ordinance should say. Several of the residents agreed and plan to present that proposal at the next commission meeting Nov. 26.

Riding his Harley Road King with his vintage 35-year-old chipped mustard-colored helmet, Tommy Heid and an entourage of approximately 370 other bikers descended upon Alto Saturday afternoon as part of the annual Tommy Heid Chili Run.

Alto was one of a handful of stops along the way to Heid's house on Gun Lake, known affectionately by the participants as Heid's Beach. Awaiting their arrival were vats of chili.

This year's ride raised money for the relief fund for New York City firefighters and policemen.



There's a stark contrast between observing a classroom setting and being its facilitator of discussion and provider of information.

Jessi Spry, a Michigan State University student intern under the guidance of Lowell Agri-science teacher John Schut and Wittenbach Center director Tammy DeBaar, juggles that task along with pursuing credits toward her master's degree. Spry will remain at Lowell throughout the school year.



A diverse group of Lowell business leaders, educators and volunteers gathered at Camp Manitou-Lin Friday to participate in leadership activities to enhance communication and listening skills as well as improve working together in group settings. There were 37 Lowell residents who participated in the all-day event. They broke up into three groups. The activities included high-low rope courses, Tee-pee shuffle, human Bingo and a bridge-building exercise involving spaghetti and marshmallows.

October 31, 2001



Lowell Middle School's play productions are nothing new.

They have been a staple of the LMS drama class for nearly 20 years. Cheryl Blodgett, Lowell Middle School counselor and former drama teacher, began working with drama students on play production in 1983.

Jane Bushell, a first-year drama teacher at Lowell, and her two drama classes (36 students) author an original transcript for their fall play.

The curtain opened on A Visit to the Village of Value. After gathering the students' ideas and suggestions, Bushell writes a play to include as many characters as possible.

Bushell, who has a degree in performing arts, said her writing background encompassed creative writing and poetry. The play was a collaborative effort with the students.

Lowell's Erin Doyle and students from Catholic Central (30) and West Catholic (8) are part of an organized group of volunteers who spend two days in New York City working with the National Relief Network.

Lowell's Steven and Christian Koning are honored at the Kent County 4-H Council's 48th annual Leadership banquet. Steven was recognized for performing arts, and Christian, in the project areas of dairy, horse and judging.

Christian was selected a state winner for the mark of excellence.

For a second consecutive season, Lowell will at least share in an O-K White Conference girls basketball championship. The Red Arrows' 60-46 win over Forest Hills Central assures that.

SBC Ameritech and Verizon consumers will enjoy a greater range for local calls with the Oct. 15 introduction of expanded local calling throughout Michigan.

This plan will offer a consistent and easy-to-understand statewide guide for local calls within customers' home ex-

changes as well as calls from home to adjacent exchanges.

Dustin Visser runs for the treat that awaits him when he's finished.

Dustin is a two-year member of the Alto Running Club, along with his brother Steve and his twin brother Travis. Funny how things work - the fact Dustin is running is treated enough for his mother (Carrie Davis) and father (Jeff Visser).

Despite the medical challenges Visser has had to face, he hasn't run from them - instead he runs with them.

Caleb Pratt was born with a restrictive pulmonary valve. He was just eight days old when doctors performed a valvuloplasty so they could open up the valve and allow blood to flow through it.

It bought time for Caleb to grow stronger so doctors could operate.

Today, he is in his third year as a member of the Alto Running Club.

The second-grader has participated in the Wittenbach Center one-mile run, the Pumpkin Run, the Old Kent Junior Run, and the Alto Fall Festival Run.

November 7, 2001

Through a partnership developed with local business owner, Michael Novak of MicroNet Systems, Lowell Cable Television is now able to offer its cable subscribers Xstream high speed internet service.

The high speed internet service will be self-sustaining and will require no capital investment on the part of Lowell Cable Television.

The service will cost customers \$49.95 a month. It will provide them access to the internet up to 15-30 times faster, and a constant "hassle free" connection without the need for a phone line.

The ability to be proactive in initiating a network of services which address the complexity of a situation is the charge of the Emergency Assistance Network coordinated through the Flat River Outreach Ministries.

A \$16,000 grant from the Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund establishes a financial base from which such services (heating, fuel, utilities, etc.) can be provided.

The program will address an individual's or family's whole situation while also bringing in other agencies to help improve the quality of its service.

The Flat River Outreach Ministries' grant was one of seven requests issued.

The total amount of money distributed was \$144,976. The total amount requested during this round of grant applications was \$318,976.

Other grants issued went to:

- Lowell Area Arts Council, web-site development, \$3,676.
 - Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation, growth and development, \$7,500, and year one of a three-year foundation matching fundraising plan, \$13,000.
 - Christ the King, LAAC art classes, \$600.
 - Lowell Area Schools, development of a Lowell Health Commons, \$4,200.
 - City of Lowell, tanker replacement, \$100,000.
- The next round of grants will be distributed in May.

In life they brought joy... in death they leave parents, families and friends with undying memories and love.

Along with the memories, there is the pain and those day-to-day emotions which family and friends struggle to process and understand.

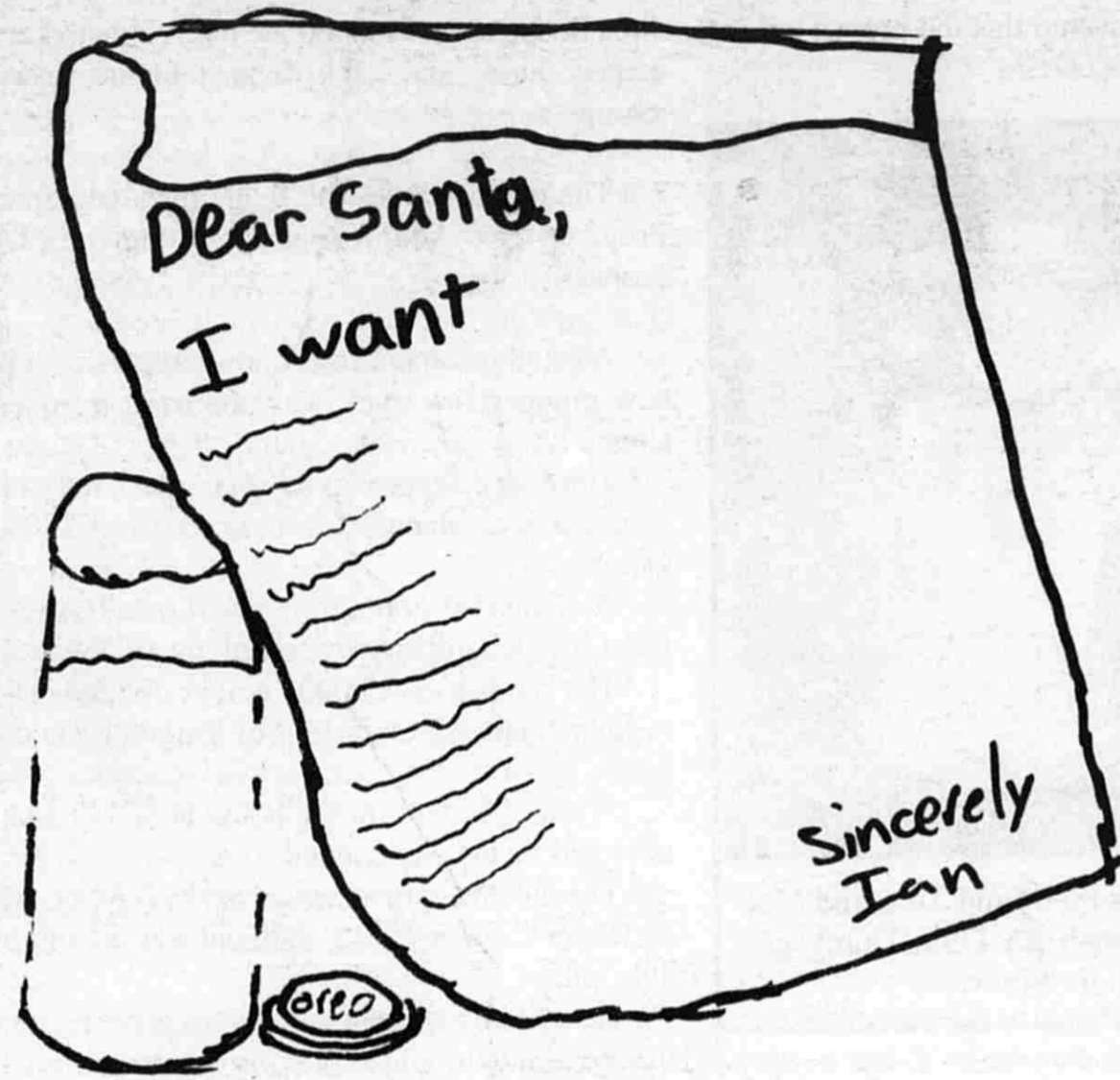
Sam Morlock hopes a book of 117 poems titled, *Those Who Went Before Us - Prayers to Heaven* brings some sort of closure and comfort to families and friends who have lost loved ones.

"I don't want Steve (who died in an ATV accident on April 28, 2000) to be forgotten. I wanted there to be a legacy," said father, Sam Morlock. "I guess I've been looking for some sort of rainbow - showing me that things would be fine. Our world (wife Betty and Sam) has changed forever; things will never be the same."

Morlock began working on the idea for the book of poems 18 months ago.



Review, cont'd, pg. 36

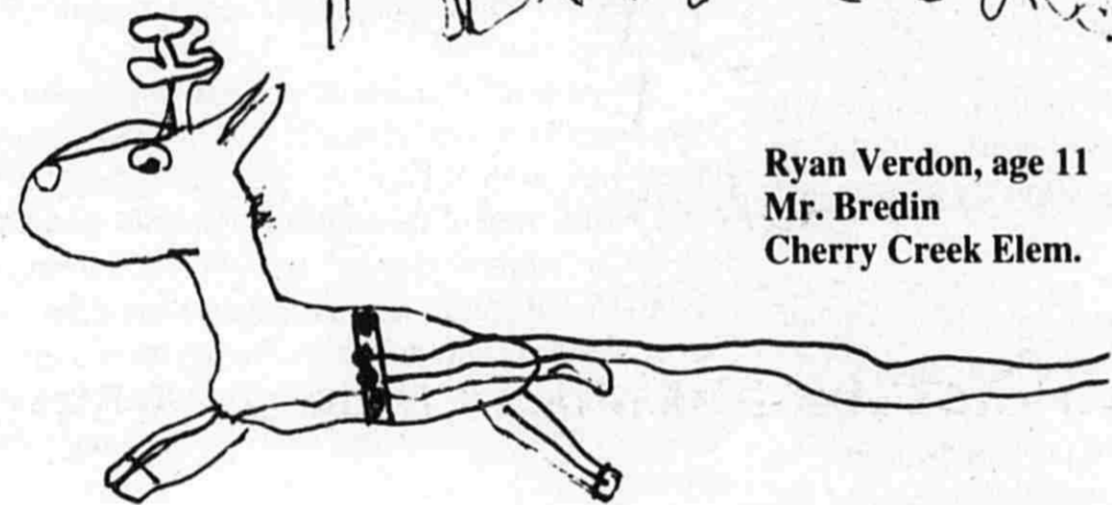


Ian Blodger, age 10
Mr. Fillman
Cherry Creek

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY
X-MAS

Matthew Schenk, age 11
Mr. Fillman
Cherry Creek

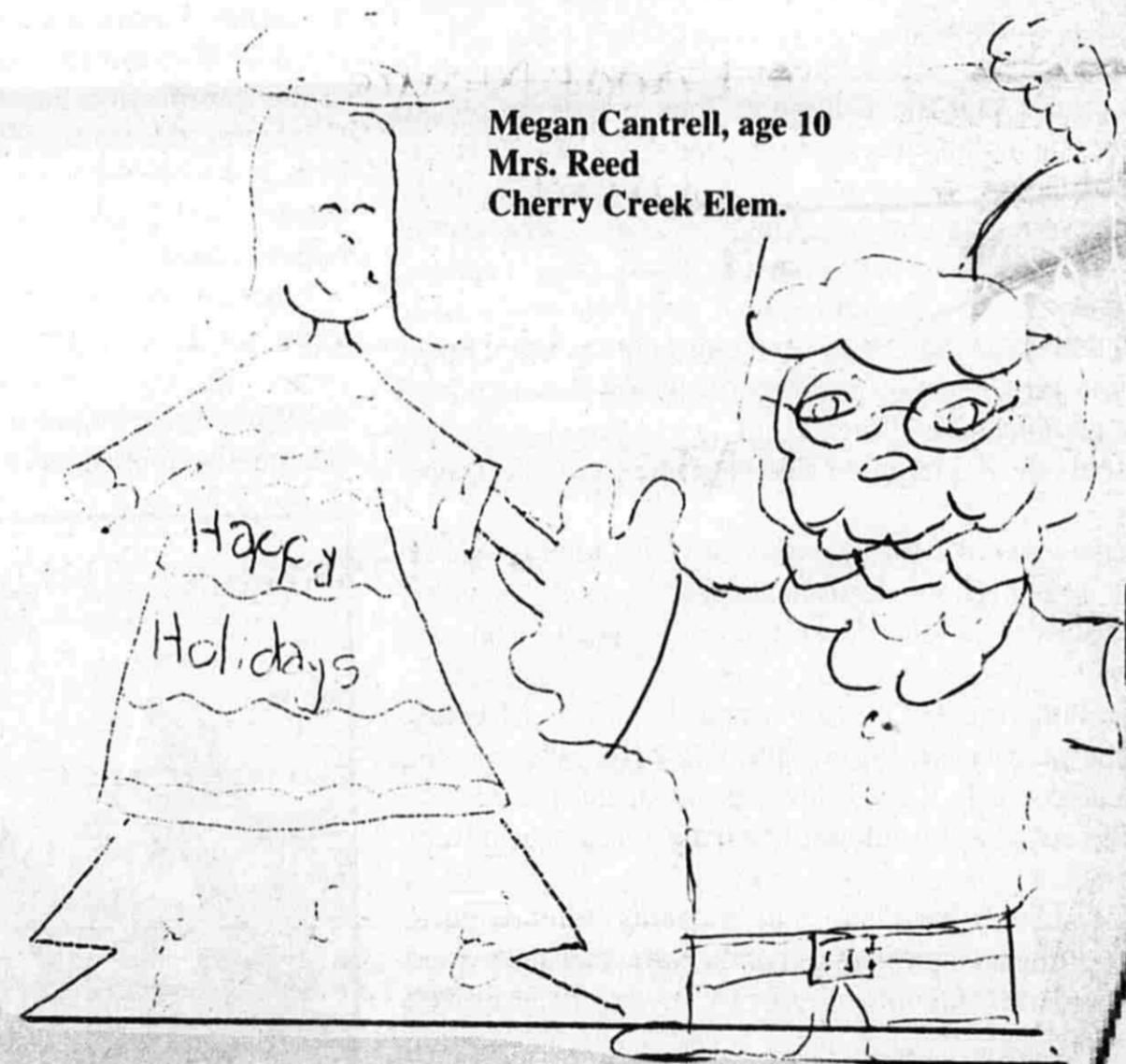
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



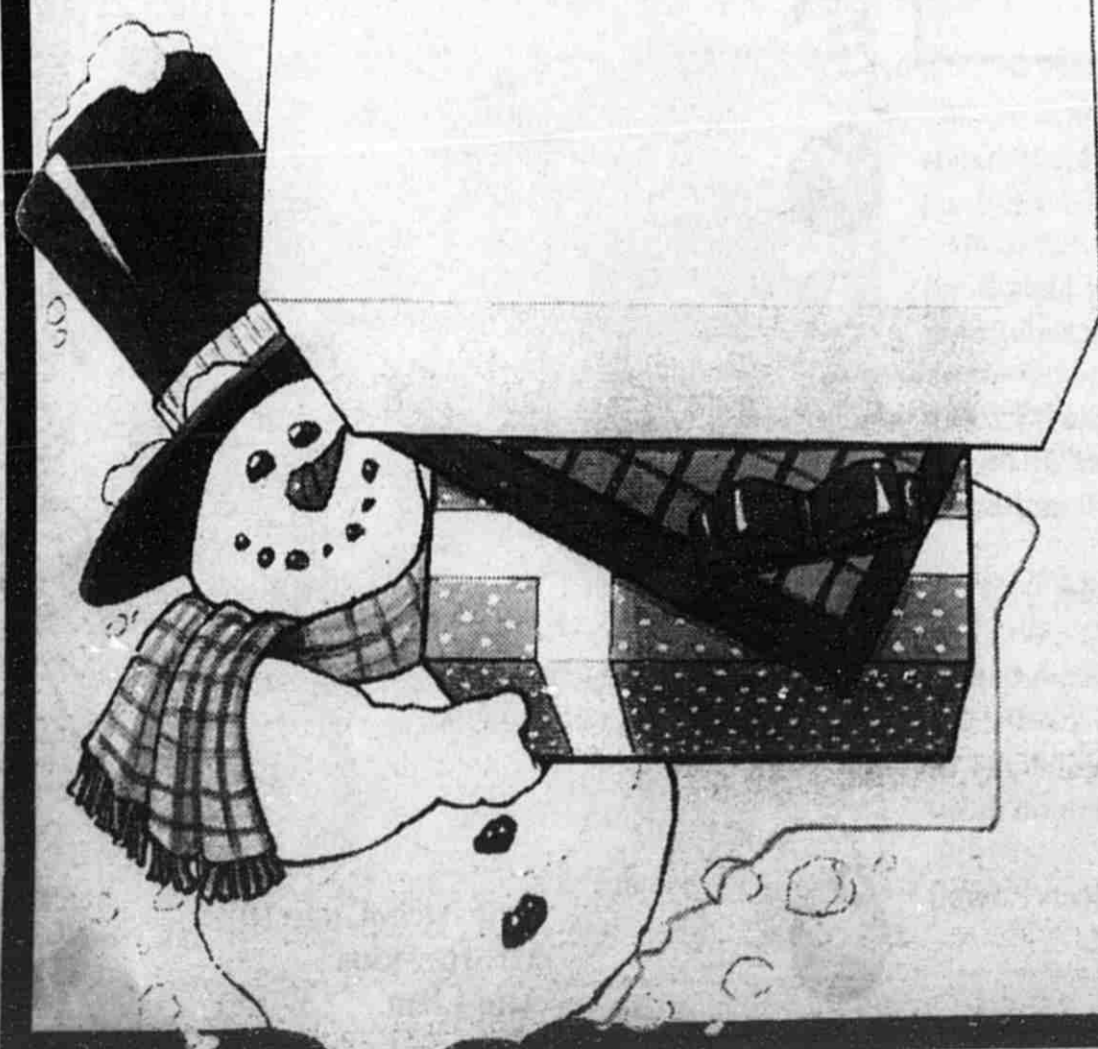
Ryan Verdon, age 11
Mr. Bredin
Cherry Creek Elem.

Merry
Christmas

Cassidy Venneman, age 10
Mr. MacDonald
Alto Elem.



Megan Cantrell, age 10
Mrs. Reed
Cherry Creek Elem.



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Scavenger Hunt leads Scouts through Lowell's History

Cub Scout Troop 3188 took a little scavenger hunt inside the Lowell Area Historical Museum in search of facts regarding Lowell's history. The pack was divided up into two person teams. Each group was given a list of questions about items in various rooms of the museum. The questions were drawn up by Judy Straub and Luanne Kaeb. Following the hunt the troop members gathered in the museum's meeting room for snacks and closing. Each troop member and its leader, Bruce T. Doll received a Lowell Museum pencil to remember their evening at the museum.

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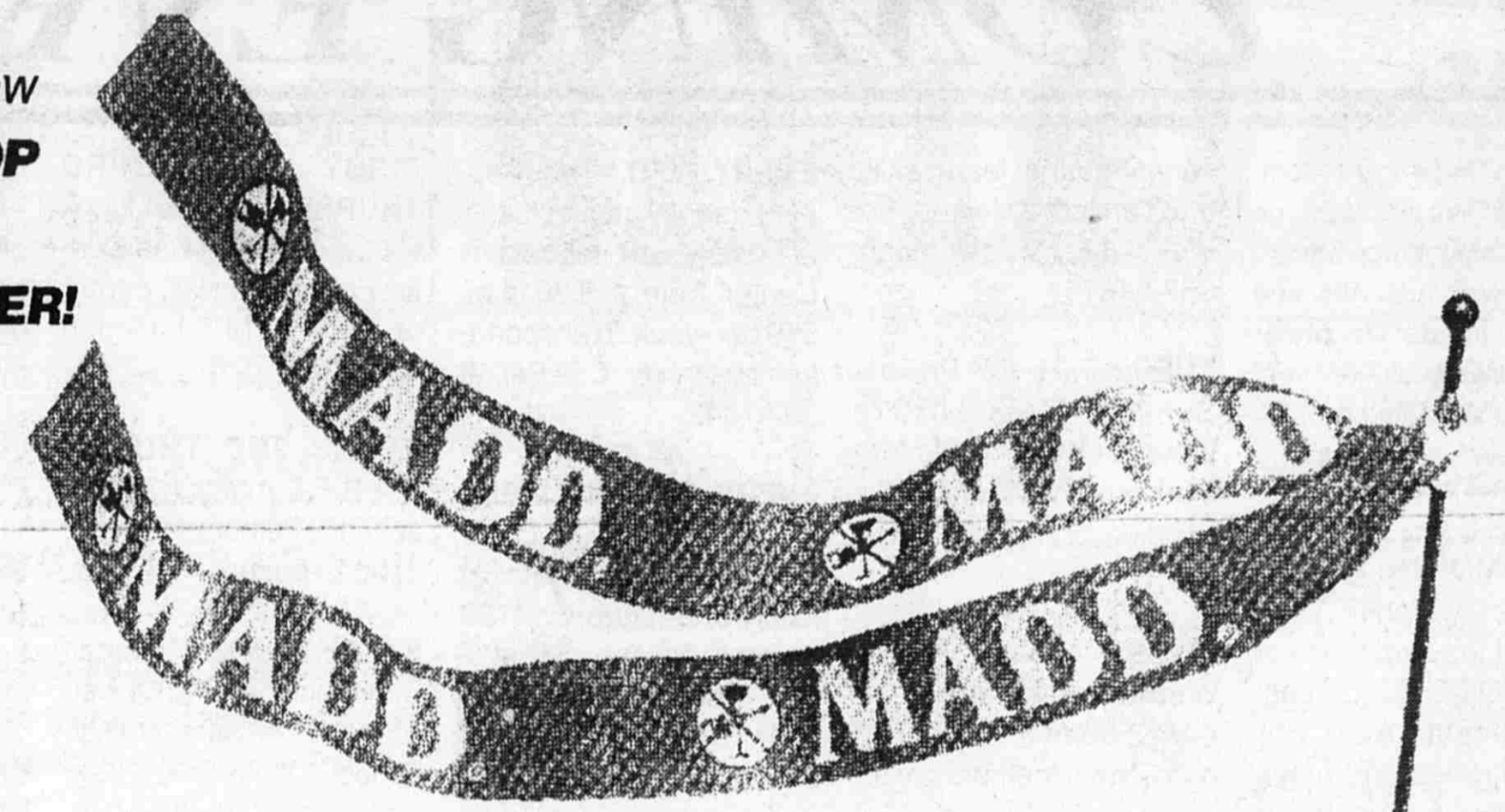
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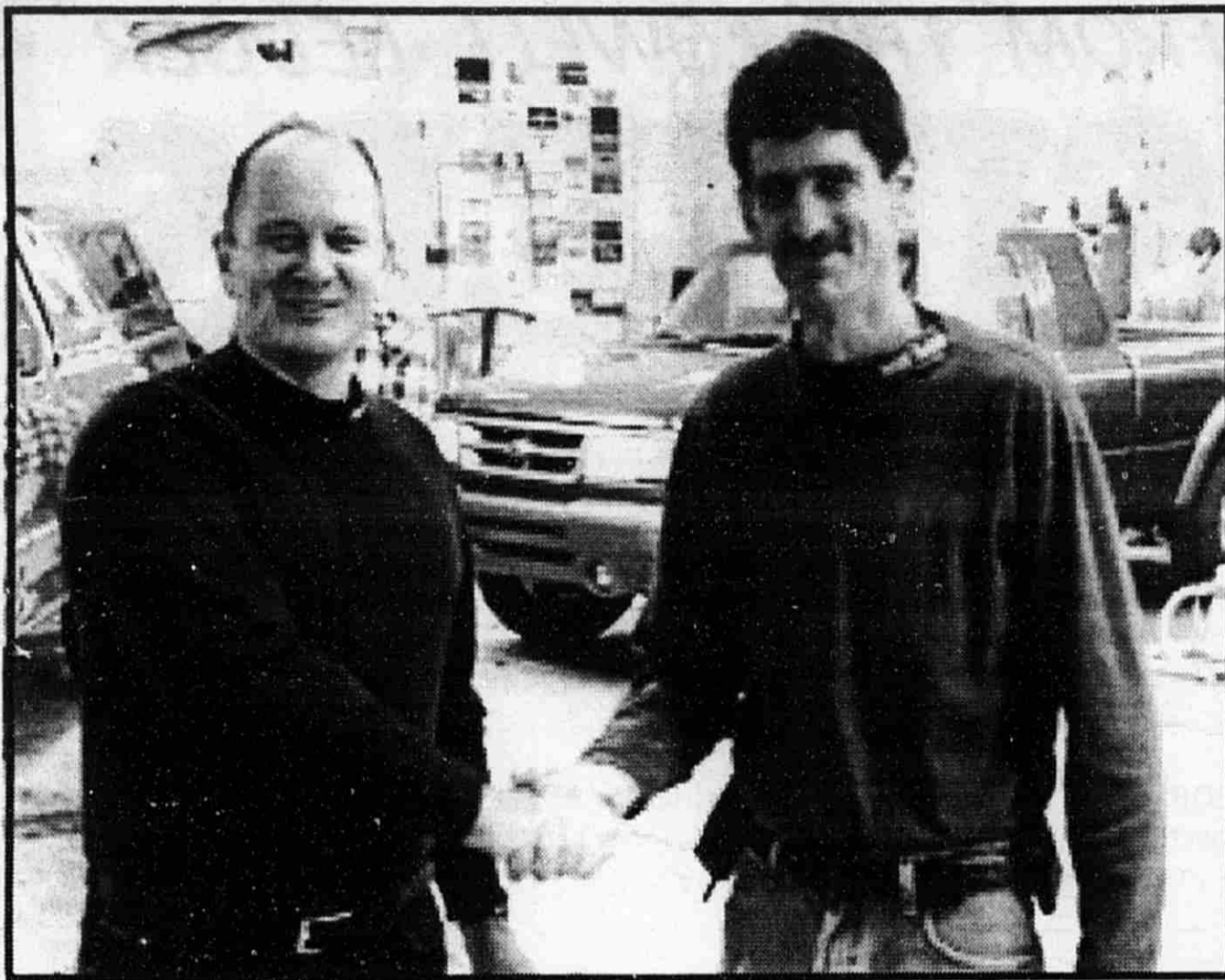


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Former Top Notch Auto Detailing owner, John Muha has merged his company with First Class Auto Center (owner Randy Hutson).

Local company merges with First Class Auto Center

In an effort to improve their quality of product and service, Top Notch Auto Detailing and First Class Auto Center have merged.

John Muha who has owned and operated Top Notch Auto Detailing for the past three years sold to Randy Hutson, owner of First Class Auto Center.

"I will be staying on as manager," Muha said. "All my other employees have also stayed on."

The merge became official on Dec. 1.

Hutson has been in the automotive retailing business for 12 years. He has three locally owned stores with in-

dividual stores in Ohio and South Carolina.

"The merge provides us with additional buying power and enables us to enhance the quality of service and product," Hutson said. "Customers will continue to get top of the line service and warranties."

First Class Auto Center will offer full car detailing, full electronics (stereos and remote starters), video player systems, full line of car and truck accessories, performance parts, full glass replacement, spray-in bedliners, window tinting, truck toppers and sun roofs.

Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller



SEIZURE DISORDER (EPILEPSY)

A seizure is defined as abnormal, uncontrollable movements or behavior that are caused by unusual electric activity in the brain. Epilepsy is the word we use to describe the syndrome a patient has if he or she has seizures.

Epilepsy can be caused in several ways. It can be inherited. It can be caused by an injury to the brain. Very often the cause is not known. It is fairly common, affecting one out of every 100 people. In the United States about two million people have epilepsy.

Seizures can also be caused by medications or illicit drug use. Overdosing on either prescription medication or illegal substances can induce a seizure. Brain disorders like tumors or aneurysms can also cause seizures.

The diagnosis of epilepsy is usually made by performing a brain wave test or EEG. This test can detect abnormalities in the brain waves which can indicate the location and type of seizure the patient is having.

Fortunately, many effective medications are available to treat epilepsy. Excellent control of seizures is possible in over 70 percent of patients with epilepsy. Depending on the type of seizures the patient is having, surgery may also be an option.

For more information about epilepsy, you may contact: The Epilepsy Foundation of America at 1-800-EFA-1000.

Benefit Friday for house fire victims

Three Lowell-area families lost their home to fire on Nov. 28.

There will be a benefit on Friday, Dec. 21 from 7-11 p.m. at Larkin's Other Place with plenty of food and various raffles, karaoke.

The families who lost their home in the fire at Lincoln Lake and 5 Mile were Kory Stremler and Pam Martin and their four-month-old daughter, Autumn; Marty Stevens and Tammy Achilles and their two-year-old son George Stevens; and Tim and Kristi Ballard.

Donations will also be accepted at the door.

SALE ENDS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

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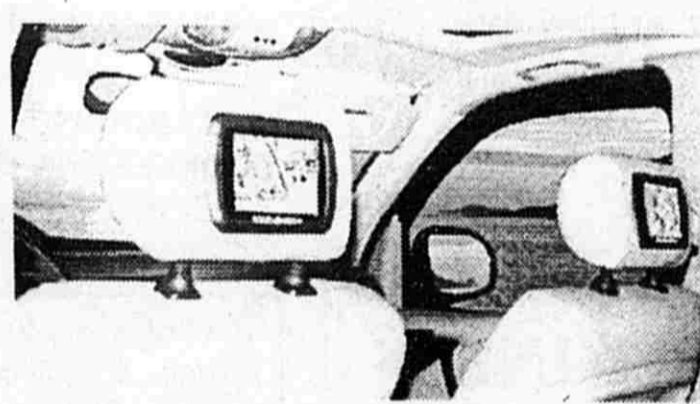
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